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Gov't, Histadrut in late-night talks to end strike

By DAVID HARRIS and MICHAEL YUDELMAN
As hundreds of thousands of workers went to sleep last night not knowing whether they would be working or striking this morning, senior Treasury and labor federation officials were locked in negotiations aimed at bringing the strike to an end.
The Histadrut was to decide by 6 a.m. whether to intensify the strike or end it.

The two sides resumed negotiations in the Treasury at 5:30 last night. By 8:30 the negotiators were describing the talks as "very serious."
"For a change this appears to be a real negotiation, which I couldn't say about previous talks," said head of the Histadrut's trade-union department, Shlomo Shani. "If it really proves to be so, there could be progress."
With the damage to the economy from the first three days of the

strike amounting to some NIS 150 million-NIS 200m., both sides said they were keen to bring the dispute to an early end. However, Treasury chief negotiator Yossi Kucik warned that if compromise was not reached by 6 a.m. and the strike intensified, he would have no choice but to break off negotiations.
Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz were to join the talks late last night to either authorize

the agreement or merely to hear a progress report from Kucik and Shani.
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking in Paris last night, said that he has been in constant touch with Neeman and he hopes that the workers will end their strike.
"If there is a real desire to negotiate, it can all be over by 6 a.m.," Peretz said yesterday. "But if [the Treasury] tries to make fools of us once again, the strike will not stop

and additional sectors will be joining it."
Earlier in the evening, both Neeman and Peretz spoke with President Ezer Weizman, who expressed his concern about the failure to resolve the dispute.
If no solution is reached, the education system and public transportation are to join the strike today.
Tens of thousands of workers will take to the streets through the day, blocking intersections and thoroughfares, while thousands of

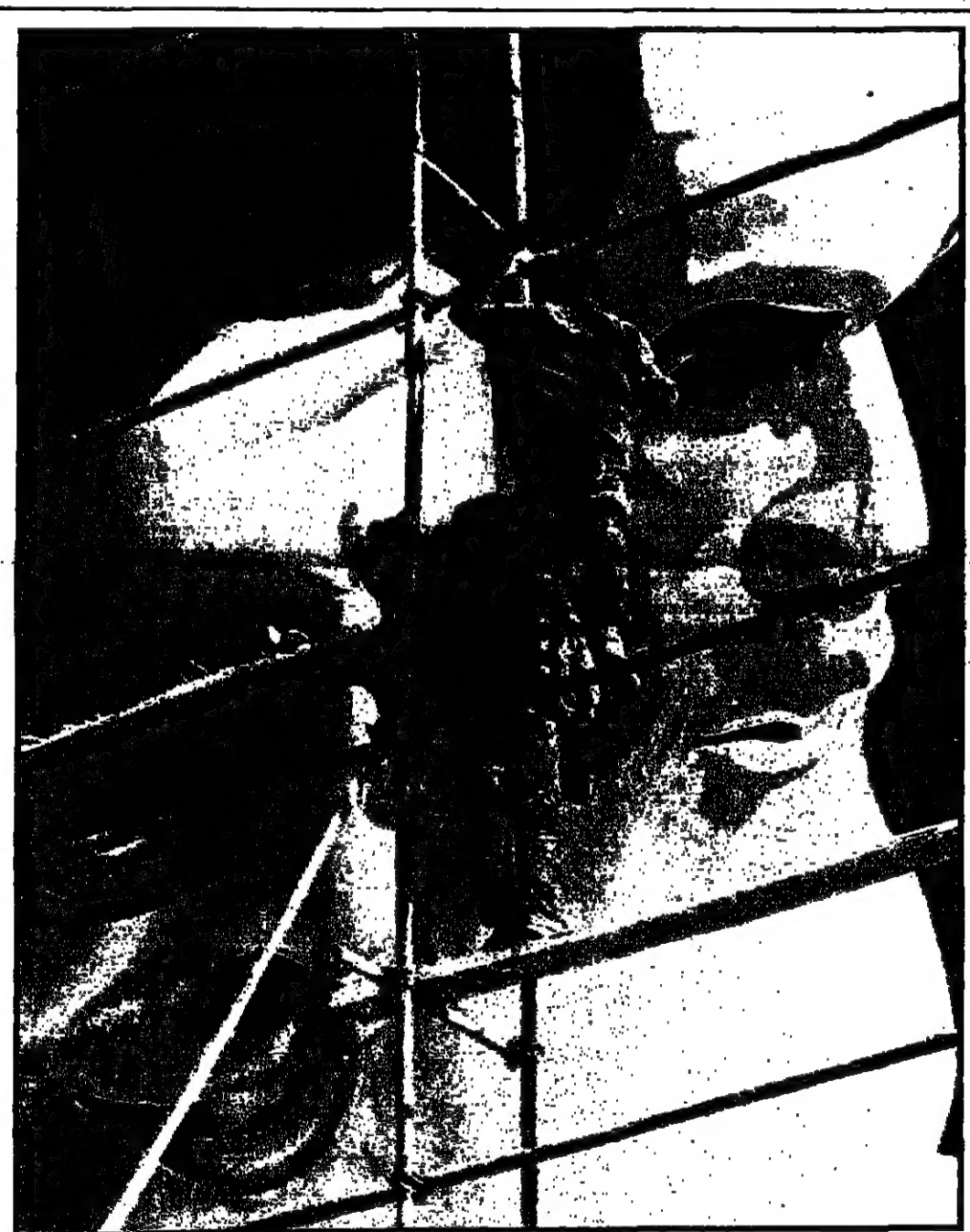
others accompany Peretz and other large union leaders to the National Labor Court, where they are to answer contempt of court suits filed by the state, Banks Association, and the Ports and Railways Authority.
Peretz made it clear that the contempt of court suits constituted "crossing a red line" in the move to break organized labor.
Senior Treasury sources said the Histadrut and Finance Ministry were close to reaching an agree-

ment which would have ended the strike some time ago, but Neeman blocked it.
Peretz yesterday accused Neeman of pressing Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to serve back-to-work orders. "Rubinstein was prepared to wait a while longer, but there is a deliberate move to push the workers to the wall and to tie our hands in the midst of talks," Peretz said.
See STRIKE, Page 2

Albright to PM: Make withdrawal 'more credible'

By MICHAEL ZLOTOWSKI and news agencies
PARIS - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had a second meeting here last night, following Albright's meeting in Geneva with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.
Earlier yesterday, Albright urged Israel to decide on a swifter, more "credible" withdrawal on the West Bank than Netanyahu has proposed.
Netanyahu said yesterday after meeting Albright that "the United States is showing understanding of Israel's security needs."
He said they would meet again on December 17 in Brussels. Albright will be meeting Arafat around the same time. There is no three-way meeting scheduled right now, but that is certainly a possibility if there is progress, Israel Radio reported.
Netanyahu does not believe that there will be a government decision on the depth of redeployment by December 17, but that discussions will likely go on until the end of the month.
"This is a step-by-step process in which there will be progress, but not necessarily within a day or two," he said. "But it won't take another five months either."
US envoy Dennis Ross described the Albright-Netanyahu meeting as "fruitful" and said that it took place in a "good atmosphere."

A political source said that "we're not working with a stop-watch in hand, and at this stage we are not on the verge of an agreement with the Palestinians."
While Netanyahu has suggested a trial period of up to five months for tougher Palestinian anti-terrorism measures, Albright pressed for quicker action.
"We would like to see a credible further redeployment," she said at a joint news conference with Arafat.
"We want to make sure there is a combination of quality and quantity."
Arafat declared: "I am not asking for anything more than is in the agreements between us and the Israelis."
Between his two meetings with Albright, Netanyahu spent one hour with French President Jacques Chirac, who told him that the recent measures decided upon by the Israeli cabinet were neither concrete nor reliable.
The meeting was described as "very friendly" by Catherine Colonna, Chirac's spokeswoman.
See ALBRIGHT, Page 2



Mubarak, Hussein to shun Islamic summit
Workers finish a mural on a Tehran street, featuring Ayatollah Khomeini (right), and his spiritual successor Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on eve of pan-Islamic summit. Story, Page 5. (AP)

Iraqi opposition: UN inspections won't harm Saddam's bio-warfare ability

By JAY BUSHINSKY
Iraq's President Saddam Hussein is building up secret stockpiles of weapons which will enable him to wage germ warfare on a vast scale, while retaining such delivery systems as Scud missiles despite the renewed presence of United Nations arms inspectors in Iraq, according to the Iraqi opposition.
To evade the international probe of his unconventional arsenal, Saddam has successfully camouflaged his entire network of military industries as bogus civilian firms, according to the sources.
Ahmad Allawi, an anti-Saddam activist who regularly debriefs Iraqi defectors upon their arrival at his base in Suleimaniya, a city in northern Iraq under UN control, contends that Baghdad's clandestine military buildup far outstrips the inspectors' ability to check, verify, and stop it.
Allawi described the cases in which Iraqi authorities were compelled to blow up illicit weapons as marginal, compared to the pace and at which weapons of mass destruction are being produced.

The opposition Iraqi National Congress, which has an office in London, reported these infractions of the post-Gulf War restrictions to the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM), headed by Australia's Richard Butler, but to no avail, he said.
Contacted in London where he has been updated by the INC, Allawi said the allies were able to destroy 80 percent of Iraq's military production centers after the war. But he said Saddam immediately repaired them, changed their names, and put them back to work.
The Al-Kindi facility in Mosul, for one, has been fully reconstructed and now produces two biological agents capable of causing outbreaks of bubonic plague in animals and humans, said Allawi. He estimated that 50 times a day, each containing five cc's, are coming off the plant's assembly line. In addition, it is churning out bacteria and viruses that cause measles, pneumonia, and mad cow disease in humans.
Allawi charged that the Iraqi regime has been concealing large quantities of these weapons in the Badoush Dam, near Mosul. He

estimated that Iraq has 1,200 facilities making lethal substances of which only seven were visited by UNSCOM inspectors.
"Thirty percent of these sites were built for the Iraqis by Russian and French firms and the rest were built by Iraq itself," he said.
UNSCOM was credited by him with having destroyed three million liters of materials destined for chemical warfare. However, he contended that Iraq's El Yarmuk and El Kassir plants produce seven to eight million liters a month.
He cited two major plants that operate under phony names: El Assir which supposedly makes insulin and Heir which purports to produce agricultural products.
Turning to the reported destruction of Iraq's Scud missile inventory by UNSCOM, Allawi described it as a virtual hoax. He conceded that 140 Scud missiles were destroyed by UNSCOM, but charged that the Iraqis had removed their engines in advance and replaced them with bogus replicas brought from the El Kaaka plant, which is part of the military's vast network of production facilities.

'False-info' scandal unfolds Mossad agent Yehuda Gil to stand trial

By JAY BUSHINSKY and DOUGLAS DAVIS
Yehuda Gil, a veteran agent of the Mossad who for nearly a decade allegedly relayed falsified data about Syria's strategic goals towards Israel, has been under arrest for the past two weeks.
The 63-year-old suspect, was identified for the first time by name in the Friday edition of London's Daily Telegraph.
A Tel Aviv District Court judge last night lifted a publication ban on Gil's name in Israel, and other aspects of the case, Israel Radio reported. However, it reported that Gil's picture would not be published so as not to "harm state security."
According to the radio, Gil, who has been charged, will go on trial December 17. The charges against him include transmission of material with the intent to harm state security, theft by a civil servant, and receipt of an object through stealth under grave circumstances.
Gil is also charged with submitting false information and saying it came from foreign sources.
The charge sheet adds that Gil was recruited by the Mossad in 1970 and retired in 1989. Since then, however, he has worked on special contracts for certain missions. Other charges have not yet been published, the radio said.
Gil's multi-faceted talents are known to include the ability to speak fluent Arabic, organize

intricate business operations which reportedly served as Mossad fronts and to teach espionage.
He was described by the Daily Telegraph as having "a great reputation for recruiting agents" and is mentioned in Victor Ostrovsky's controversial book *By Way of Deception* about the Mossad as a "katsa," (a Hebrew acronym for *kazir issuf* or guidance officer).
Information leaked or disclosed by Gil's attorney and political associates suggest a variety of plausible motives.
"Material gain: He evidently received funds that were supposed to be used to pay his Syrian informant."
"Ideology: His doubts about President Hafez Assad's so-called "strategic decision" to make peace with Israel may have prompted him to try and produce evidence to the contrary."
"Personal: Concern about his approaching retirement may have prompted him to protect his standing within the Mossad hierarchy to qualify for optimal pension rights. Alternatively, frustration over his rank and status, which may have derived from the notion that he was passed over for promotion, may have led him to take revenge by feeding phony data to his superiors."
MK Benny Elon confirmed that Gil worked for the Molekret Party for several months.
In an Israel Radio interview, Elon said, "I do not know if he

was a member (of Molekret). He was an employee - perhaps even, on behalf of the Mossad. I don't know him."
According to other sources, the man engaged in organizing and management at the national level when he worked for Molekret.
Gil's lawyer, Yigal Shapira, told a Channel 2 interviewer that his client's mood was "downhearted." He indicated that the line of defense may be that his client underwent an emotional crisis and experienced psychological difficulties which affected his behavior.
But Shapira denied that Gil confessed to any charges.
According to him, the suspect based some assessments on information he obtained from purported meetings with non-existent sources.
Investigators were said to be probing the whereabouts of money the suspect was given. He was quoted as having said he still had some of the money and would return it under certain circumstances.
Gil was said to have retired from the Mossad when he worked for Molekret, but to have been called in for periodical stings.
His relationship with Molekret coupled with his hard-line assessments of Syrian intentions reportedly may have caused his Mossad colleagues to become suspicious of him.
See GIL, Page 2

Arrest shocks neighbors in Gadera

The arrest of veteran Mossad agent Yehuda Gil astounded his friends and neighbors in the ordinarily quiet town of Gadera, evoking expressions of disbelief and fond recollections of his active role in the affairs of this community, which is located southwest of Rehovot.
Gil and his wife, Noa, live in a well-kept villa in one of the town's most prosperous neighborhoods. In recent days, however, their house has been empty, its shutters closed, neighbors said.
"This is a respected and well-established family, whom we number among our founders; it does not seem logical that this man would do anything just for financial gain," a woman who lives nearby said.
Another neighbor said Gil was pleasant and easy-going. "I do not believe it. We're talking about a marvelous family and a decent and honest man who often volunteered to serve the moshava," he said.
The neighbors said they knew Gil had worked in a security-related institution, and that since his retirement he had become very active in the community. Gil was one of the pillars of the Be'er society, which determines water allocations in Gadera. He also volunteered to work for the local burial society.
Gil considered running for office in the last municipal election as head of the Gal list, which identified with the right-wing Molekret Party, but a short time before the balloting he changed his mind and gave way to another candidate.
Gil was once director-general of the Molekret movement, but resigned after a few months, a party activist said.
Others who claimed to have known Gil and to have

been close to him said they were not surprised about the allegations, apparently because he was known to hold extreme right-wing opinions and to be opposed to the idea of territorial compromise.
Gil's wife, Noa, is a high-school teacher in Gadera. The couple has three children, a son who is an officer in an elite IDF unit and two daughters, aged 34 and 31.
BACKGROUND
By Jerusalem Post Staff
Gil's alleged activities are mentioned in Ostrovsky's 1990 book, whose publication Israel failed to prevent in a Canadian court.
Ostrovsky writes that in 1985, Gil recruited Jadid, "a ministerial-level official with the Syrian military," after recruiting his brother, Magid. Magid was enlisted in Copenhagen in 1985 by a businessman named Mark who shared Magid's love of chess.
Mark said he worked for an investment assessment company that sold information to corporate clients. Magid agreed to provide information and enlisted the services of his brother, according to Ostrovsky.
The Mossad paid \$15,000 a month for Jadid's information, and, at one point, had to extricate a prized informant who was suspected of trafficking in drugs and pornography. The Mossad eventually supplied him with a new identity and resettled him in Denmark.
Ostrovsky said Gil's exploits ranged from gathering intelligence on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, which Israel bombed in 1981, to organizing Operation Moses, the 1985 airlift of Ethiopian Jews from Sudan to Israel.
Item contributed to this report

Young Lakers
IN TEL AVIV
SOTHEBY'S



NEWS

in brief

Soldier injured by rock

An soldier was lightly injured when Palestinians threw rocks at a patrol at Beit Anoun near Ramallah yesterday. The IDF Spokesman said the rock also damaged an IDF vehicle. IDF troops fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the rock-throwers. *Margot Dudkevitch*

PFLP members reportedly arrested

The IDF Spokesman was investigating reports that eight Palestinians affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine were arrested in the Ramallah area on Thursday and Friday. According to Palestinian sources the names of those arrested are Mustafa Salih and Osama Tarsha, from the Jelazounne refugee camp; Mohammed Farouk Awad, Ghaleb Abu Zaid, Ashraf Subi Awad, and Mohammed Ali Quattossa all from Dir Qadis. Other sources charged that more PFLP activists were arrested. *Margot Dudkevitch and Mohammed Najib*

Peace Now demonstrates outside PM's house

About 100 mostly young demonstrators protested for an hour outside the home of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last night, urging further and substantial redeployment in negotiations with the Palestinians. "We want to put pressure on Netanyahu saying that this redeployment cannot be like the first one, it must be a redeployment that is negotiated with the Palestinians," said Hagit Yaari, spokeswoman for Peace Now, which organized the demonstration. *Elli Wohlgeleit*

Palestinian stabbed with broken glass

A Palestinian youth was slightly injured yesterday after he was stabbed with broken glass outside Damascus Gate of Jerusalem's Old City, police said. The stabbing occurred after a business dispute in the peddlers' market. The youth was taken to Hadassah University Hospital in Ein Kerem. *Elli Wohlgeleit*

Alleged collaborator murdered in Gaza jail

Jihad Abed A-Razak Majdlawi, 40, was killed last week in a Gaza jail, allegedly by a convicted murderer, Atawa Abdallah Lamor. 24, of Khan Younis. Majdlawi, of Nuseirat, was stabbed to death in a prison yard as an accused collaborator with the GSS, Palestinian sources said. Lamor reportedly confessed to the murder, saying, "I'm proud that I murdered him. This degenerate was proud that he succeeded in getting 40 Palestinian girls to collaborate with the GSS." *Jim*

Hamas newspaper reopens

The weekly Hamas newspaper *A'assala* resumed publication at the end of last week after being shut down by the Palestinian Police three months ago. The Palestinian Police had closed the newspaper following the Rehov Ben-Yehuda bombings on September 4. Editor Ghazi Hamad said that local human rights organizations and other bodies had pressured the PA to allow the paper to reopen. The issue was also raised by the Palestinian Legislative Council, he said. *Mohammed Najib and Margot Dudkevitch*

Four injured in jeep accident

Four people were injured, one seriously, when the jeep they were travelling in overturned in Nahal Zvitan on the Golan Heights. The injured were taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital and Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital. *Jim*

Finance Minister, the people are with you!

"Finance Minister - the people are with you - be strong, don't fear," read the black and white poster that was hastily glued to the Finance Ministry's front door last night. The message was signed by "people of the left and right, with the good of the country at heart."

The only real agreement in talks with the Histadrut was declared at 9:15 p.m., when the Treasury's chief negotiator Yossi Kucik came out of his office and declared "we'll have six or seven meat sandwiches please."

Minutes later the two teams had a short break, enough time for the Histadrut's Shlomo Shani to phone organization chairman Amir Peretz for a quick conversation. Shani's words echoed down the empty first-floor corridor. "Amir, the Treasury is doing as we thought, so I think we'll let you and [Yaakov] Neeman tackle that

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By DAVID HARRIS

While the team of three from each organization pored over a round table in Kucik's office, Treasury spokesman Eli Yossef kept messaging journalists through the night, and answering the odd telephone call. "No there's nothing new to report. Yes, I will call you if anything changes."

Kucik left the room once to consult with Neeman. Conducting the conversation with Neeman's voice on speakerphone, one could hear Kucik ask the minister to be at the Treasury by midnight, and Neeman responding: "I'll only come down when you tell me there's something to come for."

GIL

Continued from Page 1

When the Mossad decided to launch an inquiry, its director, Danny Yatom, asked permission from Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to proceed, who gave him the go-ahead.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that the media has exaggerated the importance of information submitted by Gil. Nevertheless, this is a grave phenomenon entailing the falsification of intelligence, he said. But, added Netanyahu, "I would be careful about drawing conclusions about the Mossad," which he described as a vital institution.

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of

ETHEL BASFORD

Funeral, Sunday, December 7, 1997, at 11 a.m., leaving from the Beth Hessed opposite Herzog Hospital, for Givat Shaul. Ronald and Sharon Basford, Rami Shvan, Yael, Irit and Yaniv Basford.

DRIVE CAREFULLY

Merom to challenge Barak on yeshiva students' national service

By SARAH HONIG

Labor MK Haggai Merom announced last night that he will oppose party chairman Ehud Barak's proposal to draft yeshiva students for national service. The issue is due to be raised by Barak today at the party convention in Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium.

The yeshiva students' conscription issue promises to be perhaps the only spark of possible controversy, as Barak had made sure in advance that deliberations there would be no votes or decisions on any contentious issues.

Merom said yesterday that Barak's idea is "geared to gain him a few more popularity

points. Here is yet another example of the new norm he introduced of running a political party according to what the polls seem to dictate. If the polls deem that a certain issue will win Barak popularity, then he will espouse it. There are no other criteria and no guidelines."

Merom's procedural objection is "that the matter had not been discussed in any party forum and had never been brought up in any shape or form. As such, it cannot suddenly be whipped up out of nowhere and be served to the convention as a ready-made resolution merely on Barak's say-so."

If Barak attempts to raise the matter, "he will encounter stiff opposition. Despite what he may like, this is still not a one-man

party. We are still a democratic institution," Merom said, adding that "yeshiva students should not be conscripted into national service. I can just see these fellows in the school system, for example, seeking to bring the entire student body back to religion. These yeshiva boys belong in the army like the rest of Israel's citizens and should be given no discounts."

As to Arabs, Merom said that "it is doubtful they should even be asked to do national service in their own communities, because the situation is still not ripe for that."

Merom was badly snubbed by Barak recently after he decided to run for party secretary-general. Despite Merom's previous

support for Barak during the Labor leadership battle, Barak threw his full political weight behind Merom's chief opponent, MK Ra'anan Cohen. As a result Merom dropped out of the race, accusing Barak of "having clearly preferred Cohen because he is Iraqi-born, a fact which could conceivably win him a few more points among the Sephardi voters. Barak also preferred Cohen because Cohen is so docile and obedient, and Barak only wants yes-men around him."

MK Nissim Zivili, meanwhile, told him that Labor must carry the banner of social issues, as well as that of peace, if it is to succeed in the next election.



Happy Birthday Sachal

Youths from Mevasseret Zion hold up signs wishing a happy birthday to Sacha Elterman, the Australian athlete still hospitalized with serious injuries sustained in the Maccabiah bridge collapse. With JNF help, the youths planted 16 trees in her honor. (Uri Shale)

On Intifada's 10th anniversary

Hamas calls to 'keep gun directed at Israel'

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Marking the tenth anniversary since the outbreak of the intifada, the Hamas spokesman in Amman called yesterday on Palestinians to keep "the gun directed towards the Zionist enemy."

"Hamas appeals to all Palestinian forces inside the territories and in the diaspora to unite their ranks in confronting the (Israeli) enemy," said a statement signed by spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh.

He also urged Palestinians to "stand firmly against all conspiracies targeting the land of Palestine, all of Palestine, and Jerusalem, all of Jerusalem," and for "eliminat-

ing collaborators" with Israel.

In Hebron yesterday, about 500 activists of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine burned an IDF soldier in effigy and also torched some Israeli and US flags.

The protesters at the Islamic University in Hebron also held up photos of Palestinian prisoners and of the movement's leader, George Habash, who lives in Damascus.

Speakers rejected Israel's proposed pullback in the West Bank and called for continued struggle against Israel.

Palestinians said that at least 30 Arabs were wounded in clashes with the IDF in Hebron and Rafiah on Friday.

Other sources said that five people were hurt in the unrest in Rafiah. The violence erupted as hundreds of Palestinians threw stones and firebombs at an IDF outpost, charging that the soldiers had taken some of their land.

Palestinian sources claimed that soldiers fired live ammunition at the protesters and that a 3-year-old boy and an Associated Press cameraman were among the wounded. The cameraman was shot in the hand.

The IDF spokesman said that soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrators after Palestinian police failed to stop the protests. The spokesman

also said that IDF officials would meet with Palestinians in the coming days to discuss the land issue in Rafiah.

Meanwhile Sheikh Ahmad Yassin addressed a crowd of about 1,000 in Gaza yesterday. He lashed out at corruption in the Palestinian Authority, and called on PA head Yasser Arafat to win the release of Hamas prisoners held by Israel.

"We have to stand in the face of the corruption, we should not allow corruption to take place in our nation," he said.

Yassin also demanded the reopening of Hamas-affiliated institutions shut by the PA in recent months.

STRIKE

Continued from Page 1

"We are facing a finance minister who not only ignited the flame but is also pushing us to the wall," he said. Peretz revealed that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told him at their Thursday meeting in Ben-Gurion Airport that he too had reached the conclusion that the workers' agreement should first be obtained before privatization moves and structural reforms are made.

It was the Histadrut's decision to permit the workers who received back-to-work orders to return to work over the weekend which paved the way to renew negotiations.

It became clear late last night that one of the key sticking points was reaching compromise over the pension agreement signed in May 1996 by Peretz and former finance minister Avraham Shohat, which

Neeman - with Netanyahu's full backing - is refusing to uphold. The Histadrut is demanding the agreement be retroactively enforced, while the Treasury says it is prepared to allow implementation from January 1, 1998, according to Histadrut sources.

Over the weekend, 400 Mekorot workers resumed their posts and the Histadrut allowed some 40 flights to land and take off at Ben-Gurion Airport. The airport closed again at 5 p.m. yesterday, pending a decision on whether the strike will continue. But thousands of Israelis are still stuck abroad, and many tourists are unable to leave the country.

Meanwhile, the near-agreement between the Tel Aviv Municipality and the Histadrut to end the garbage strike exploded on Friday, as the sanitation workers rejected the understandings reached earlier. Mayor Ronni Milo threatened that if the workers are not back at work

crete and reliable initiative."

On some issues, Albright said, "we should come to closure soon." She referred the Palestinians' demand for an airport and a corridor to connect Gaza with the West Bank, a senior US official said.

Albright called her three-hour meeting with Arafat "very useful and constructive."

Appealing to Arafat to do more on security, Albright said: "Chairman Arafat understands the importance of having a 100 percent effort on his part on the security situation. There is no question there has been improvement in security cooperation, but there is always more that can be done. There can be no complacency. It requires 100 percent effort, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The terrorists are unrelenting, and so must be the efforts against them."

today, he will hire private contractors to clean up the city.

Municipal workers will not deal with the public today. Even if the national Histadrut strike is ended, the Tel Aviv stand-off will continue.

Peretz revealed over the weekend that he had objected to Labor Knesset Faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen's intention to move no-confidence in the government because of the labor relations crisis.

"The strike has no partisan affiliation and must not be made to look like it has. The striking workers and their leaders include many supporters of the Likud, Shas and other parties, and they are all united on this issue," Peretz said.

However, MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui) has asked Rubinstein to act to lift Peretz's parliamentary immunity, so he can be tried for contempt of court. Poraz also has asked the House Committee to rescind Peretz's parliamentary rights. He said he

would continue to act to thwart the bill by MK Yossi Katz (Labor) which would allow Peretz to continue to serve as both an MK and Histadrut head after the next Knesset elections, which would not be possible under the current law.

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

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Liat Collins contributed to this report.

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IDF officer lightly wounded in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah vows to retaliate for Friday's losses

An IDF officer was very lightly wounded during fighting in the security zone last night. The officer, a captain, was with troops on operational duties in the zone's western sector when they came under mortar fire.

Several mortar rounds fell in the area, apparently close to the troops, and the officer suffered very light injuries caused by shrapnel. He was treated in the field.

The incident followed a series of long-range attacks by Hizbullah gunmen on IDF and South Lebanese Army positions, mainly in the zone's eastern sector, earlier in the day.

There were no casualties in the earlier incidents, which prompted

return fire from IDF and SLA gunners.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah yesterday threatened to retaliate for the deaths of three Lebanese civilians in bomb explosions near Majdal Salim village, which is north of the security zone.

The organization accused Israel of being responsible for planting the devices that killed the three men and badly wounded a fourth on Friday afternoon.

"We hold the Zionist enemy fully responsible for this crime and its consequences," Hizbullah's leader in South Lebanon, Sheikh Nabil Kaouk, said in a statement issued in Beirut.

"The crime will not go unpunished. The resistance is determined to make the enemy pay a heavy price and make him weigh the consequences before carrying out similar attacks," Kaouk said.

It was unclear from Kaouk's statement whether retaliation would take the form of Katyusha rocket fire on Galilee or concerted attacks on IDF and South Lebanese Army targets in the security zone.

Israel made no comment about the bomb blasts which, according to reports from Lebanon, occurred about 500 meters from the nearest houses in Majdal Salim - not far from a wadi which has been used by Hizbullah gunmen in the past as

a route to infiltrate the zone.

According to the reports, a 55-year-old shepherd from Majdal Salim was killed in the first explosion. Two other residents were killed and a third badly wounded in a second blast when they went to the aid of the shepherd.

News agencies quoted Lebanese security sources as saying that it was not clear whether the blasts were caused by explosive devices or mines.

Houses in Majdal Salim village, which has been deserted by many of its inhabitants because of its proximity to the northern perimeter of the zone, have been used in the past as cover by Hizbullah mortar

crews firing at IDF and SLA outposts.

Meanwhile, Labor MK Yossi Beilin, who is leading a movement calling for a withdrawal from south Lebanon, told Channel 2 he had been in contact with Lebanese officials over his proposals. Beilin said he met some Lebanese officials directly, although most were through the auspices of Europeans and others who visited Lebanon and met with officials there, including some Hizbullah leaders.

"My impression is that the Lebanese government is very interested in us leaving south Lebanon and that it is willing to implement UN security council resolution 425 - to deploy to the international border with the assistance of UNIFIL," Beilin said.

Navy intercepts boat with Iraqi refugees

By AREN O'SULLIVAN and Nim

The Navy intercepted a suspicious vessel after it strayed into Israeli waters Friday, and discovered it was a small Lebanese craft laden with Iraqi and Kurdish refugees, the army said.

The vessel was intercepted about 40 km. off the Herzliya coast and taken to the naval port in Ashdod, where it was examined. Among the 28 refugees were 11 children and two women, one of whom was about to give birth, the army said.

Apparently, the ship set sail for Crete five days beforehand from Tripoli, Lebanon. But the ship was caught in a storm and drifted off the Israeli coast. When the navy found it, the ship was running low on food and water supplies.

The crew was given medical treatment and the pregnant woman was taken to Ashkelon's Barzilai Hospital for examinations, the army said. The woman and fetus were found to be healthy and returned to the naval base.

The IDF also questioned the refugees about life in Iraq. "They were very scared," a soldier said. "They kept asking in terror, 'Are you sending us back to Iraq?'"

Several of the refugees asked to remain in Israel, but the vessel was sent on its way yesterday morning after it was repaired and loaded with fuel, water and provisions.

NEWS

in brief

Matza, Neeman to discuss health budget

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza will meet with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to try again to bridge the gaps between them on the arrangements bill and dealing with the health system's NIS 1.3 billion budget deficit, it was learned last night.

Matza said he is unwilling to accept that the state budget, as prepared, doesn't offer a solution to this deficit and that the arrangements bill will in effect revoke the egalitarian National Health Insurance Law.

Judy Siegel

Haredim block Rehov Bar-Ilan

A haredi youth was detained yesterday for stoning a police car, after some 150 haredim blocked Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan, police said. Police pushed the crowd back on to the sidewalk and reopened the street to traffic at midday.

Elli Wohlgeheimer

Safed residents protest open cafe on Shabbat

Hundreds of observant Safed residents gathered outside a cafe in the town on Friday night to protest its remaining open with communal singing. The cafe owner then gathered a group of his friends who own motorcycles and they rode them back and forth near the protesters. The owner said the protest only strengthened his resolve to stay open on Shabbat.

Itim

Northern towns: Don't remove our soldiers

The forum of confrontation line settlements in the North has called on Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to reverse his decision to stop using troops to guard settlements along the northern border. Forum head and Ma'lot Mayor Shlomo Bubbut said at a meeting of the group in Nahariya on Friday that as long as troops are used to guard Rachel's Tomb and other sites in Judea and Samaria, it is inconceivable that they stop guarding northern communities.

Itim

Police arrest 35 in Jerusalem casino raids

A police raid of gambling operations in Jerusalem on Thursday night resulted in 35 suspects being detained overnight for questioning, and over 200 gambling machines being confiscated by police. According to police, tens of thousands of shekels were being gambled at these establishments every day. Police will recommend that the 35 suspects, who were released on bail, be charged with illegal business practices.

Elli Wohlgeheimer

US travel writers arrive to plan conference

Representatives of SATW, the American travel writers association, arrived over the weekend. They are on a planning trip for the group's 1998 conference, which will take place here. In 1983, SATW held a conference here, boosting tourism to Israel from North America for several years.

Itim

Ministry to probe teen's death after operation

Five transplants were performed over the weekend after 17-year-old Tarani Hatib, from Deir Hanna in the Galilee, died suddenly of cardiac arrest after a routine nasal operation in Haifa's Bnai Zion Hospital.

The Health Ministry set up a committee to investigate the death. Her relatives agreed to donate her organs; one of them went to Hatib's 12-year-old cousin.

Judy Siegel

Russian deputy FM in Lebanon to discuss Hizbullah-IDF prisoner swap

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Possovalyuk returned to Jerusalem yesterday after visiting Syria and Lebanon. He is to meet today with Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur.

In Beirut on Friday, he offered to mediate in negotiations to swap the remains of IDF soldiers killed in south Lebanon for Lebanese prisoners in Israeli jails.

"If we can help in this humanitarian matter, we are ready," he told reporters after meeting Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

A dozen IDF commandos were killed on September 5 when they were ambushed after landing on the Lebanese coast north of the security zone.

Hizbullah gunmen were joined by Amal militiamen and Lebanese soldiers in the fighting with the Israeli commandos.

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said in September that the group was negotiating the exchange of Lebanese prisoners held by Israel for body parts from the commandos killed in the botched raid.

Earlier on Friday, Possovalyuk met Nasrallah and the swap negotiations were high on the agenda, a source close to the talks said.

The daily *an-Nahar* on Friday reported that the negotiations had made some progress, saying that Israel has accepted the Hizbullah demand that it trade living prisoners for dead soldiers.



Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Possovalyuk speaks to reporters after meeting with Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut on Friday.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

The Hebrew press focused on two major events over the weekend: the Histadrut general strike and last week's revelation that false intelligence information about Syria has been flowing into the defense and political systems.

"In the place where information-embellishment is exposed, it is obvious that severe sickness and perhaps decay exists," *Ha'aretz's* Ze'ev Schiff writes, warning that when this phenomenon continues for numerous years, it is an indication of faulty operation not only within a certain branch, but throughout the whole intelligence community.

In his article "Earthquake," Ya'acov Erez of *Ma'ariv* focuses on the impact of false information on the decision-making process of the politicians.

"This sort of information might have radicalized Israeli positions, caused the escalation of tension and might have brought on a military confrontation between Israel and Syria," he writes.

Yedioth Aharonot's Ron Ben-Yishai writes that except for damaging the reputation of the intelligence community and hurting public morale, the affair has not caused any political or security damage to the state. All information is cross-checked and the decision-making process never relies on a single source, he explains.

However, "it had caused severe damage to mutual trust, vital to the working relations between the different branches of the intelligence community," he writes, adding that it will undoubtedly "sabotage the work of the Israeli intelligence community in giving us the protection that we need."

Ma'ariv's Oded Granot refers to the conflict between the Mossad and Army Intelligence in the past several years - one has been claiming that Syria is headed towards war and the other that it is headed towards peace.

Granot praises former OC Intelligence Uri Saguy "because he managed to wisely overlook the 'noises' [false information]."

Provocateur

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman was harshly criticized

by local pundits for referring to striking workers as "exploding bombs" and enemies from within on Monday.

"Minister Neeman is not a bomb," *Yedioth's* B. Michael

writes, "he is a thunderbolt, all noise and rings."

He adds that nothing constructive has ever come out of Neeman's statements and suggestions.

"It only has been seven months, since he [Neeman] entered the political arena... and since then he has managed to quarrel with almost every sector of the population," *Ma'ariv's*

Shalom Yerushalmi writes, adding that "usually, he is immediately forgiven."

According to Yerushalmi, there are those who claim that Neeman "adopts a calculated

strategy and he is actually paving the road to becoming a national leader."

Yedioth's Uri Elitzur focuses on the differences between Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz

and Neeman, claiming Neeman was misunderstood.

Neeman is not used to functioning in the political world of "lies and gimmicks," Elitzur writes.

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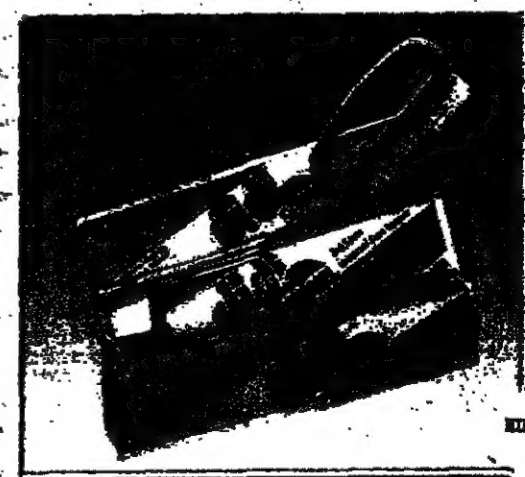
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Bronfman reiterates call for billion-dollar Swiss settlement

By MARILYN HENRY

World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman has reiterated his call for a billion-dollar-plus settlement with Switzerland, suggesting it is time to dispense with the "nonsense" of "great funds and commissions" and the committee that's looking into bank accounts.

However, US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat cautioned Friday that "one should not be dismissive of... historical research."

Bronfman made his call for a settlement in Houston as the international conference in London on Nazi gold was winding down.

By the close of last week's historic meeting of 41 nations, nine states - including Austria and Poland - had made commitments of more than a total of \$15 million for a new fund to benefit Holocaust survivors.

That amount fell far short of the \$60 million remaining in the cof-

fers of the Tripartite Gold Commission, which was established after World War II to return gold to European states whose reserves had been looted by the Nazis.

Jewish groups had agitated for the so-called "residual gold" to be used for survivors, a position that had the backing of US.

"I'm in a bit of a hurry because of the age of the Holocaust survivors. I'd like to get money to them quickly rather than delay, delay, and delay, which of course is what the Swiss have been doing," Bronfman said Thursday in Houston, where he was to receive an award from the Holocaust Museum of Houston.

"Let's forget all this nonsense about great funds and commissions and the committee that's looking into bank accounts. Let's just say there's a figure at which point we could just settle the whole damn thing, which includes of course the class action suits in

New York," he said, according to a Reuters report.

Three lawsuits, pending in federal court in New York, are seeking at least \$20 billion from Swiss banks. Some of the lawyers representing claimants have insisted that the WJC does not have the authority to negotiate a settlement on their behalf.

In Washington on Friday and earlier in London, Eizenstat praised the historical commissions, particularly the research of the Bergier Commission in Switzerland.

"I think, in some respects, the most important feature of what's been happening here will be not just the money, but in the long term the cleansing effect that these national commissions will have," Eizenstat said.

Twelve countries have set up panels to examine their role in the war and their relationship to looted assets.

The committee that is looking

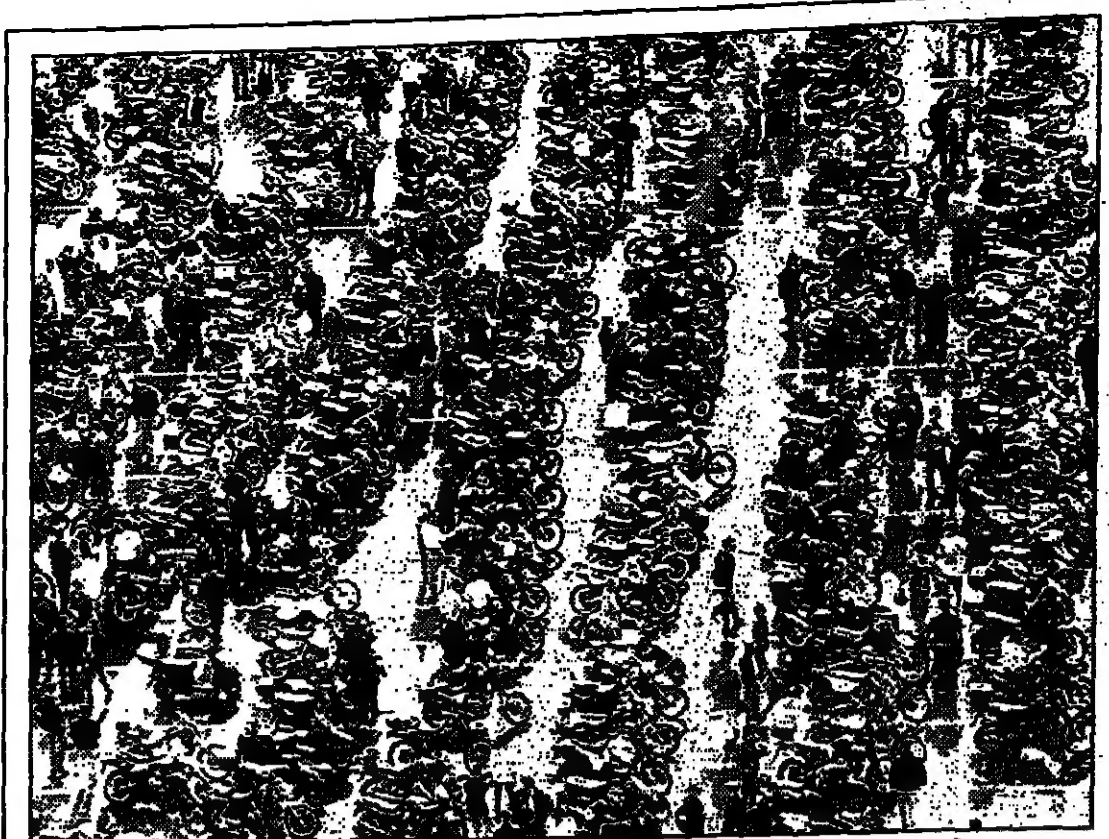
into the bank accounts, the Volcker Committee, was created in May 1996 by the World Jewish Congress and the Swiss Bankers Association.

The WJC-bankers agreement established the terms for a forensic audit of dormant Swiss accounts and a process to resolve claims, to be headed by former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker.

The SBA announced Friday in Basel that the banks had begun to pay some claims, but it declined to name the claimants or the amounts they had received.

"Somewhat more than 10 cases have been settled now, but the number is changing by the hour," SBA spokeswoman Silvia Maile told Reuters.

Approximately 6,000 claims have been filed on the dormant accounts since July, when the SBA published the first of several lists of names on unclaimed accounts.



Special bike lanes

Thousands of bikers from around the country fill Tel Aviv on Friday as part of a demonstration for special lanes for motorcycles and bicycles.

(Dan Olsender/Israel Sam)

Wiesenthal Center asks Swiss banks to freeze suspected Nazi accounts

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES - The Simon Wiesenthal Center has asked Swiss banks to freeze 52 dormant accounts which may have been opened by Nazi war criminals.

The 52 suspect names were culled from a list of 3,700 dormant accounts held by non-Swiss citizens, which was published October 29 by the Swiss Bankers Association. "Both the first and last names of the suspect Nazis matched those given in the Swiss list," said Rabbi Marvin Hier,

dean of the Wiesenthal Center.

Among them are Gestapo official Karl Bauer; Georg Schwarz, an officer at Auschwitz; Emil Bauman, accused of murder and torture at the Struthof/Natzweiler concentration camp; and Alfred Meyer, gauleiter of Westphalia.

All of the suspects were members of the SS and/or Gestapo, whose names appear on the UN War Crimes Commission list, Hier said.

The new list of 52 supplements an earlier Wiesenthal Center list of 105 Nazi suspects among 1,800 dormant account holders made public

by Swiss banks in July. These 105 accounts have been frozen, and Hier asked the Swiss government to follow the same procedure for the additional 52 accounts.

Only the Swiss banks, which have the complete banking records, can determine if the accounts were, in fact, opened by Nazi officials, Hier said. "This latest revelation just proves what the Wiesenthal Center has been asserting all along, that only a full-fledged investigation of perpetrators' accounts will clarify the scope of Nazi assets held by Swiss banks," Hier noted.

ZURICH (AP) - A retired Swiss banker has been cleared of making antisemitic remarks in an interview with *The New Yorker* magazine, a prosecutor said over the weekend.

Zurich District Attorney Thomas Wuergler said he had dropped the investigation after finding that he was unable to prove that Robert Holzach, honorary chairman of Switzerland's largest bank, had expressed such views.

Author Jane Kramer paraphrased Holzach, 75, as saying "a Jewish conspiracy" to take over the world's largest banks was behind criticism of Swiss banks over unclaimed assets of Holocaust victims.

"The investigation failed to demonstrate that Holzach made the remarks attributed to him," said Wuergler.

Holzach, one of two honorary chairmen at

the Union Bank of Switzerland, has denied making the statements attributed to him, and the bank has denounced such views.

Wuergler was investigating because of a complaint over the article filed by a Basel cantonal (state) legislator, Marcel Hess, on grounds that expression of such sentiments violate Swiss law.

The prosecutor confirmed a report in the daily *Thurgauer Zeitung* that an October 27 decree dismissing the charges had taken effect after Hess failed to appeal within days of receiving the decision.

Wuergler said that Kramer had not quoted Holzach directly and that a complete reading of the article justified the decision to drop the charges.

In his original complaint made to the court, Hess cited a passage in the article, "Mama

from Hell," in the April 28 and May 5 issue of the magazine.

Meanwhile, the German Defense Ministry yesterday announced it is investigating an incident in which a convicted neo-Nazi gave a speech at its military leadership academy in Hamburg in 1995.

A ministry spokesman said officials wanted to clear up whether those responsible for inviting former attorney Manfred Roeder, known of his neo-Nazi past and court convictions for rightist activity.

Roeder was released from prison in 1990 after serving eight years of a 13-year sentence for arson attacks in 1980 in which two Vietnamese immigrants were killed.

He was previously convicted in 1978 of distributing neo-Nazi literature and inciting the public.

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Russia releases US spy suspect

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Oops!

Hong Kong's new leader Tung Chee-hwa tries to break his fall as he trips on the steps on a red-carpeted stage during a ceremony yesterday to kick off voter registration for the legislative election being held in May to replace the provisional body installed by China when it took over the territory from Britain in July. He was apparently unhurt by the fall.

Russian plane crashes into Siberian apartment complex

More than 100 feared dead on plane and in town of Irkutsk

By JOHN IAMS

MOSCOW (AP) — A huge Russian military cargo jet crashed into a Siberian town seconds after taking off yesterday, killing all 46 people aboard and as many as 100 on the ground, news reports said.

The An-124 aircraft set the house and nearby buildings ablaze. According to the Interfax news agency, up to 100 residents of the building were killed and another 100 were injured following the crash.

The ITAR-Tass news agency said 23 bodies had been recovered from the apartment house by 4 p.m. Moscow time yesterday.

It said the plane leveled the apartment house and damaged an orphanage, two wooden houses, and a school. Interfax, quoting unidentified local emergency services sources, said hundreds of children were evacuated from the crash area and 13 were hospitalized.

The mammoth aircraft was 10 seconds into its flight after taking off from an aircraft factory airport near Irkutsk when both left

engines failed at an altitude of about 70 meters, ITAR-Tass said, quoting sources close to the government investigation.

The plane was headed from Irkutsk, about 4,200 kilometers east of Moscow, for Vladivostok.

Li-Col. Nikolai Baranov, a Defense Ministry spokesman, said there were 16 crew members and 30 military personnel aboard the four-engine cargo jet, commonly known as the Ruslan, when it went down. The Ruslan is one of the world's largest aircraft.

The plane barreled down a main street of Irkutsk-2, an industrial area located near Irkutsk city, spewing wreckage and bursting into flames after completely demolishing the four-story apart-

ment building, a local official said.

Police and firemen were searching the debris for casualties, according to Yevgeny Kozlov, a local emergency service official speaking to Russian television news.

He said two other apartment houses, a school, and a shop were damaged by fire. He said 150 children and 10 adults had been evacuated from the orphanage, also damaged by fire.

Kozlov said the fires had been extinguished, and rescue workers were searching for casualties. "Now its dark in Irkutsk, but the fire is out and rescue workers have begun the search for bodies," he said.

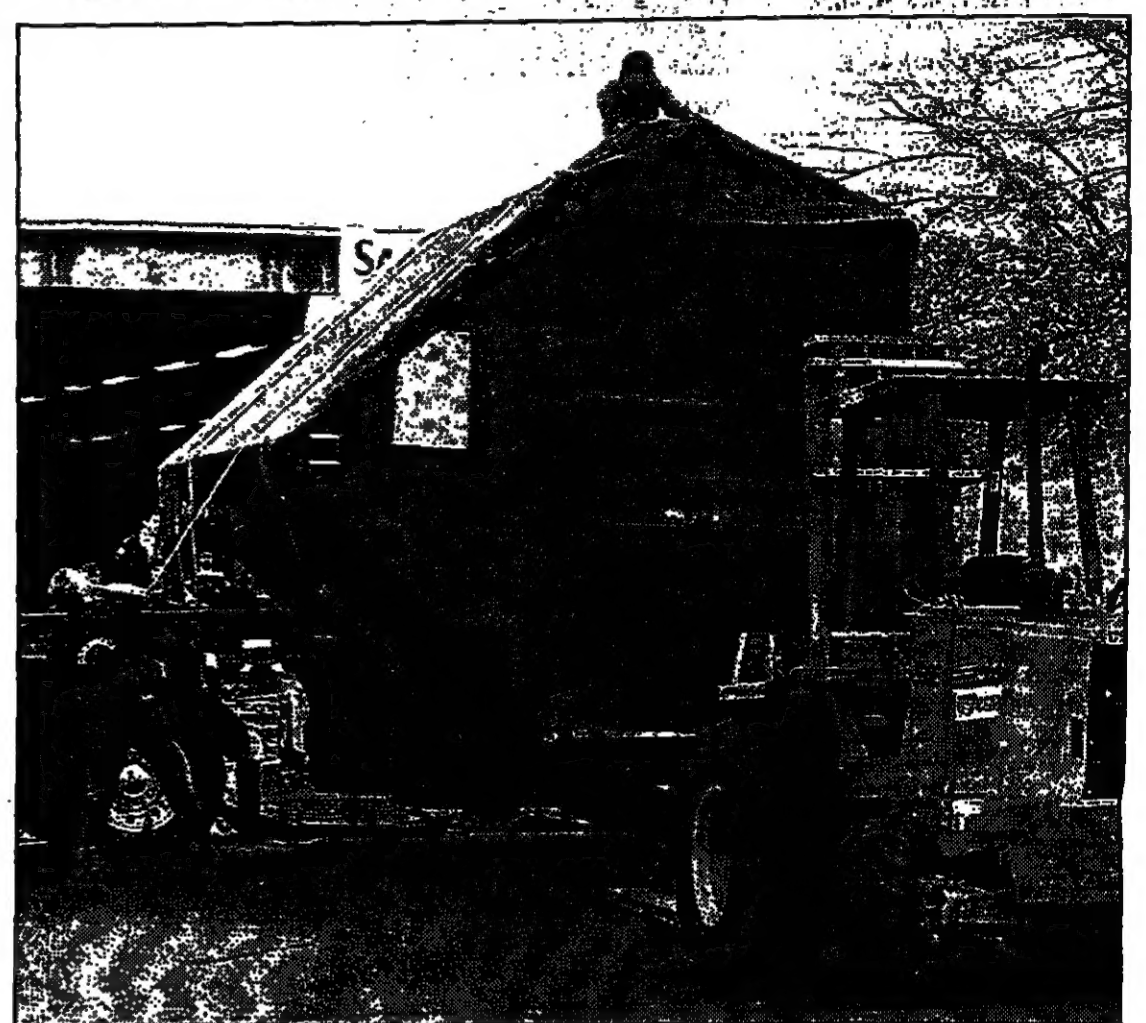
As many as 200 people were living in the apartment building, ITAR-Tass said.

Kozlov said said 12 people, including seven children, had been taken to a hospital in Irkutsk in critical condition with burns.

The cause of the engine failure crash was not immediately known. Defense Minister Vladimir Topogov and Air Force chief Pyotr Deinekin flew to the scene of the crash, the news agency said.

President Boris Yeltsin said, he was shaken by news of the crash. He ordered Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to go to Irkutsk and head up the investigation into the accident, the president's press secretary said.

Alleged Unabomber's cabin arrives in Sacramento



Truck driver Bill Sprout (top) removes part of the tarp used to cover Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski's cabin after it arrived in Rancho Cordova, California, from Montana on Friday. (AP)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (Reuters) — The tiny plywood shack where Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski allegedly manufactured deadly mailbombs, but which his defense lawyers see as their prize exhibit, arrived from Montana on Friday.

The prosecution will begin the "guilt or innocence" phase of the trial with opening arguments on December 29.

Kaczynski lived for more than 20 years in the 3.6-meter by 3-meter cabin without electricity or running water and with only a small wood-burning stove to keep out the bitter cold of the Montana winters.

Federal prosecutors claim the cabin was, in essence, a bomb factory where Kaczynski made explosive devices and later mailed them to unsuspecting victims. But Kaczynski's defense team aims to show he is a men-

tally deranged man who did not realize the consequences of his actions.

The former college mathematics professor who turned his back on society to live the life of a hermit in Montana was charged in Sacramento with the murders of a forestry industry executive and a local computer store owner and the maiming of two college professors. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

When the tests provided no conclusive evidence of rocket fuel, Sanders misrepresented the results to the media, according to the court papers.

Sanders's wife Elizabeth, a TWA flight attendant, also was charged in the federal complaint filed in New York.

"These defendants are charged not only with committing a serious crime, they have also increased the pain already inflicted on the victims' families," said Assistant FBI Director James K. Kallstrom, who stressed, "the criminal investigation is far from over."

Sanders and his wife face 10 years in prison if convicted on charges of removing and concealing parts of a plane involved in an accident. Sanders, who has been cooperating with the FBI, faces a possible year in jail if found guilty on charges of stealing government property.

All the defendants are expected to surrender tomorrow, officials said.

350 killed in Sri Lanka battle

By SHRI NAVARATHNAM

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — More than 350 soldiers and rebels were killed and a similar number wounded Thursday in one of the fiercest battles since the military launched an offensive to capture a strategic highway, military and relief officials said Saturday.

According to the Sri Lanka Red Cross, the fighting lasted for more than nine hours and killed nearly 350 on both sides. First reports from the front reached Colombo only on Friday, and the death toll was raised Saturday.

A Sri Lankan Red Cross official said the death toll on the military side was over 250. He said around 105 rebels were killed in the attack.

The official was at the town of Vavuniya, about 40 kilometers south of the battle site in the jungles of Puttur. The region, about 200 kilometers north of the capital, is barred to reporters.

The Tamil Tiger rebels in a statement issued Friday claimed to have killed 300 government troops in the battle, and to have lost 35 of their own fighters. The rebels are fighting to carve out an ethnic homeland in the north, claiming Tamils are discriminated against in predominantly Sinhalese Sri Lanka.

The Defense Ministry said that 102 Tigers were killed in the battle, but gave no details of the attack. More than 300 combatants were wounded on both sides, military officials said. The fighting erupted early Thursday morning

when the military launched an attack in the jungles of Puttur, in an apparent bid to destroy a rebel camp. Tigers launched a ferocious counterattack using mortars and artillery guns, the Sri Lankan Red Cross official said. More than 2,000 rebels were involved in the attack, he said.

Government troops are trying to capture the last kilometers of a highway linking the southern mainland to Jaffna, the former rebel stronghold captured by government troops nearly two years ago.

More than 700 soldiers and 2,500 rebels have died since the highway campaign was launched in May, and several hundred more have been wounded, according to government figures.

The war, which erupted after anti-Tamil riots in 1983, has left more than 50,000 dead.

US scientists recreate sound of dinosaurs

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (Reuters) — US scientists said Friday that after two years of work they had recreated the call of the duck-billed Parasaurolophus dinosaur.

They said they had uncovered and simulated the extinct creature's deep, rumbling, whale-like or elephant-like groan using scans of a rare dinosaur fossil and powerful computers.

"It's kind of a sad sound and a little out of this world," said Dr. Tom Williamson, at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.

The two-year project to recreate the Parasaurolophus' sound began after a skull fossil of the 25-foot-tall, plant-eating dinosaur was discovered in New Mexico in 1995.

Dr. Carl Diegel of the Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque said the team of scientists wanted to understand the function of a bony, tubular crest extending from the back of the dinosaur's head. The crest, shaped like a trombone, contained a labyrinth of air cavities that Diegel believed made a distinctive sound.

By simulating the fossil structure on computer, the scientists came up with a unique sound which they say is the real thing. It can be heard on the following Internet sites: www.nmnh-abq.mus.nm.us and www.sandia.gov.

The team has applied for a copyright for the sound. "There are some commercial interests," a spokesman for the New Mexico museum said.

Beijing executes two bank robbers

At least 4,367 executed last year in China

BEIJING (AP) — Two peasants who tried to rob a bank in a Beijing suburb have been put to death by firing squads, the Beijing Evening News reported yesterday.

Beijing's Higher Level People's Court approved the death sentences for Qi Guoqiang and Zhang Baoliang on Friday, and the lower court immediately carried them out, the newspaper said.

Qi and Zhang, farmers from Daxing County on Beijing's northern edge, plotted the robbery in September.

The two stole two cars for use in the robbery and then on October

21 entered a county branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank, the newspaper said.

Zhang shot a security guard, who later died, and an alarm closed off the bank's counter, forcing the two to flee, the newspaper said.

Chinese leaders have pushed for increased use of the death penalty as part of a nationwide campaign started last year to combat crime.

China executed at least 4,367 people last year — six times the number of people put to death in the rest of the world, according to Amnesty International.

TWA employees charged in theft of crash debris

NEW YORK (Los Angeles Times) — Authorities on Friday charged two TWA employees and a policeman-turned-author in the theft of pieces of wreckage from TWA Flight 800 which were used to underpin a theory that a missile struck the jetliner.

According to a criminal complaint, TWA pilot Terrell Stacey stole scraps of seat fabric from the hangar where TWA Flight 800 was being reassembled and gave it to James Sanders, a former California policeman who wrote a book claiming a missile downed the plane.

Stacey also provided Sanders with confidential documents from the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation of the July 1996 crash that killed all 230 people aboard the Boeing 747 aircraft, court papers stated.

Prosecutors charged that Sanders took the fabric to a laboratory for analysis, and emphasized to lab personnel his desire that the tests show the presence of

solid rocket propellant. When the tests provided no conclusive evidence of rocket fuel, Sanders misrepresented the results to the media, according to the court papers.

Sanders's wife Elizabeth, a TWA flight attendant, also was charged in the federal complaint filed in New York.

"These defendants are charged not only with committing a serious crime, they have also increased the pain already inflicted on the victims' families," said Assistant FBI Director James K. Kallstrom, who stressed, "the criminal investigation is far from over."

Sanders and his wife face 10 years in prison if convicted on charges of removing and concealing parts of a plane involved in an accident. Sanders, who has been cooperating with the FBI, faces a possible year in jail if found guilty on charges of stealing government property.

All the defendants are expected to surrender tomorrow, officials said.

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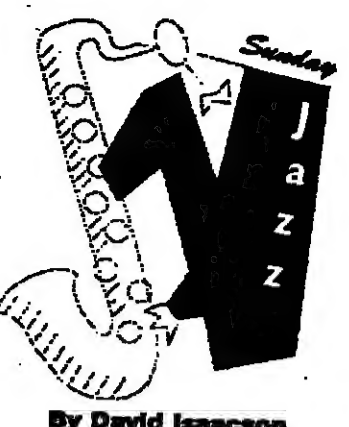
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מזמור השלום

New life for a 'Headhunter'



By David Isaacson

Anyone laboring under the misconception that a three-piece jazz band is old hat should listen to *Fingerpainting*. On this tribute to Herbie Hancock, the 25-year-old trumpeter Nicholas Payton forms a trio with wunderkind bassist Christian McBride (24) and guitarist Mark Whitfield (30).

Trumpet, acoustic bass and mostly acoustic guitar might sound like a strange configuration.

FINGERPAINTING: THE MUSIC OF HERBIE HANCOCK
McBride, Payton, Whitfield (Helioco)
NEXT VOYAGE
Philippe Saisse (Helioco)



Nicholas Payton is smooth as velvet on his brilliant tribute to Herbie Hancock.

(James Minchin)

But Payton remains smooth as velvet on the most involved solos, McBride's mastery of harmonies remains stunning on the umpteenth hearing, and Whitfield, who has the speed and dexterity to meet the most unlikely chord changes, makes it seem natural to honor Hancock without a piano. Together they play with astonishing subtlety and maturity.

Such is this trio's brilliance, one could almost overlook the compositions themselves. Hancock seems to have lost the plot in recent years - his recent disc *Heavy* is a set of very difficult duets with Wayne Shorter - but here his music is given new life. Fusion fans might disagree, but for me, Hancock's finest years were in the 1960s, and the majority of this 14-track collection reflect this.

"The Kiss" and "Jane's Theme" are taken from the landmark score to Antonioni's classic movie, *Blow Up*. (Some of the best jazz discs - Sonny Rollins's score to the over-rated *Alfie* and Gato Barbieri's sound track to *Last Tango in Paris* - are inspired by movies. All three of the *Fingerpainting* musicians feature in Robert Altman's *Kansas City*.) This "Kiss" is more romantic than in *Blow Up*, though equally slow. "Jane's Theme" recreates both Antonioni's existential images and, on a wider scale, the optimistic, prescient aesthetic of music in 1966.

"Sly," from Hancock's breakthrough 1973 album, *Headhunters*, is a powerful paean to Seventies funk, all the more audacious for being played with no drummer. But more typical is "Chan's Song." Hancock wrote it with Stevie Wonder in 1985, but this version sounds as though it could have graced *Blow Up*.

The *Washington Post* compares Payton to Louis Armstrong on account of his "fast, focused sound." But on *Fingerpainting*, Payton creates the lonely, late-night redemptive feeling more usually associated with saxophonists.



By Emily Hauser

Native Israelis have a thing about ponderous, depressive rock. Case in point: When music is under discussion, I

Levy today is clearly very unhappy - or at least he was when he wrote the songs to this album, his first solo effort. So far, radio stations and the Hebrew press love it.

The first 13 tracks on *Dudy Levy* are essentially the chronicle of emotions created in the wake of a wrecked relationship, apparently that of Levy and his ex-girlfriend, who left him and became religiously observant. Note the words to "Na Venad B'Tel Aviv" ("Moving and Shaking in Tel Aviv"): "The edge of the bed / a prayer book / surprise card in the deck / ... Journey's end / I give up / ... I think that's going too far."

Later he sings "But not for Levy the screaming agony of Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder or the melodic, rocking sorrow of Bruce Springsteen.

This album has the sound, both lyrically and musically, of the jilted lover who's slumped on the floor, hasn't eaten or slept for days, and keeps mumbling to friends "but I love her." The sincerity of the writing and the excellent musicianship are what save *Dudy Levy* from being merely self-indulgent.

DUDY LEVY
Dudy Levy (NMC) ***
ATA HAVERA SHELI
("YOU'RE MY GIRLFRIEND")
Eran Zor (NMC) ***2

You can hear the smoky room in which the heartbreak itself resides, see the lover's tear-stained face, feel the numbed despair each of us has known at one time or another. Whether an entire album of this sort of unrelenting bleakness is overwhelming is a question of personal taste. Myself, I prefer emotion's roller-coaster, even when it's grief that's on the table - the howl of pain as well as the paralyzed hopelessness.

NATIVE Israelis seem also to have a real fondness for vocalists who can't sing to save their lives. Like Eran Zor.

Zor has been a highly-respected member of the left-of-center alternative rock milieu ever since his involvement with the now-defunct band *Tattoo*. *Ata Havera Sheli* ("You're My Girlfriend") is Zor's ambitious musical interpretation of a collection of poems by Yona

Wallach, the rebellious bad-girl poet who still holds great sway over local culture 12 years after her untimely death.

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15				
THIS LAST WEEK'S ON WEEK-WEAK CHARTS		ARTIST	TITLE	
#1	1	CELINE DION	LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE	
#2	2	EVAL GOLAN	WITHOUT YOU	
#3	4	VIA	NOW 38	
#4	3	SPICE GIRLS	SPICE WORLD	
#5	12	SHABAK SAMECH	B'ATFA SHELI...	
#6	5	THE VERVE	URBAN HYMNS	
#7	8	EVYATAR BANAI	EVYATAR BANAI	
#8	NEW 1	BARBRA STREISAND	HIGHER GROUND	
#9	9	BACKSTREET BOYS	BACKSTREET'S BACK	
#10	20	VIA	HITMAN 8	
#11	RE 1	OM KOLTHOM	INTA OMRI	
#12	15	PORTISHEAD	PORTISHEAD	
#13	10	YEHUDA POLKIER	LIVE IN CAESAREA	
#14	14	STING/POLICE	VERY BEST OF	
#15	7	GIDI GOV	LAILA GOV 2	

Mukat & Arkadi: Immigrants on the run

By GRIER FAY CASHMAN

When working as a freelance director for Educational Television a couple of years back, Adi Japhet-Fuchs was sent to do a two-minute sports feature on an Ethiopian athlete and his Russian coach.

It was an unusual alliance, given that relations between Ethiopian and Russian immigrants have not always been idyllic.

Japhet-Fuchs didn't understand a word said by either Mukat Derba or Arkadi Sklar, who both had strong accents as well as limited Hebrew. But she was deeply impressed by their commitment to each other - and also touched by the story of a talented young athlete who was running 20 kilometers a day in torn shoes because he was too poor to buy new ones.

As a rule, Japhet-Fuchs does not follow up on completed productions, but she was haunted by Mukat and Arkadi, two newcomers struggling together to find a niche. Then she learned that Mukat had broken the record for the Israeli

10,000-meter junior marathon and was the nation's new junior champion. He was scheduled to compete in the World Junior Championship run in Sydney, but he and Arkadi would first go to a training camp in Bulgaria.

Bitten by a bug to document this new phase in Mukat's career, Japhet-Fuchs decided to follow them. She started shooting in Israel, then, at her own expense, took a film crew to Bulgaria for five days.

Bulgaria was great for Mukat, who as a teenager had been separated from his family. The Balkan country's topography reminded him of Ethiopia and in some measure relieved his feelings of homesickness. The Slavic land's scenes and sounds also had a certain familiar resonance for Arkadi, who in the old country had been a successful and highly respected coach, and came to Israel after his daughter developed breathing problems after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.



Mukat Derba (left) and Arkadi Sklar are 'like father and son.'

thing is easier than the energy thing." Screened at the Haifa Film Festival and the Tel Aviv Cinematheque, the documentary *Mukat & Arkadi* will have its television premiere tomorrow night at 9:30 on Channel 8.

It is a film with many messages, not the least of which is how much talent and creativity is in danger of being strangled by bureaucratic red tape.

Japhet-Fuchs is not sure at this stage whether it will have a sequel, but chances are that this is not the last time that we'll see Mukat and Arkadi on the run.

Acre: Taking the 'fun' out of funding

By HELEN KAYE

Amid fanfare, Igal Ezrati and Gabi Eldor received their NIS 10,000 first-prize envelope at the Acre Festival, but the envelope was empty. They are still owed their first prize money, as well as NIS 35,000 of the NIS 80,000 they should have received from the festival for their *Alley of the White Chairs*.

Eldor and Ezrati are not alone. All the participating theater groups are owed approximately a third of the money due to them according to the contracts they signed with the festival.

"We were supposed to get the NIS 35,000 at the beginning of November," said Ezrati last week. The festival management told us to apply to the Acre Municipality and the Ministry of Education, but all we got were promises.

The festival owes NIS 913,000, according to producer Gad Oron, of which NIS 250,000 is owed to the participating theater groups. They are the people whose plays sold NIS 450,000 worth of tickets, landing the festival with a slight operating surplus for the first time in years.

That money, however, could not be used as part payment for the festival's debts to the theater artists and to the suppliers of ancillary goods and services because the festival is not an autonomous body.

The Acre Festival is run by the Israel Cultural and Arts Association (ICAA), a public trust directly responsible to the Ministry of Education, which is the festival's main source of funds. It also gets money from the Acre municipality, as well as some from institutional sponsors.

Back in August, the festival was threatened with closure because, despite pious insistence to the contrary, the ministry had not transferred the necessary funds to the ICAA. It took a noisy and very public demonstration in mid-September by the artists to shame the ministry into paying.

The ICAA has received the promised NIS 1.3 million, but we had to use some of that money on other ministry-funded projects," says ICAA general manager Galit Bauerski, adding that some of this money also went to cover part of the festival's NIS 600,000 deficit from 1996.

"The ministry still owes us NIS 230,000," says festival producer Gad Oron. "The Acre municipality owes us NIS 335,000, corporate sponsors still owe us NIS 160,000 of the NIS 300,000 we were promised, the Jewish Agency says it will pay its NIS 160,000

by January 1, maybe, if they get the money." And there are a few more thousand owed by various bodies such as ticket organizations, Oron adds, explaining that much of this money is in implicit IOUs or deferred checks, such as one for NIS 120,000 from the Acre municipality due on December 20.

According to Acre deputy-mayor Israel Lavi, the rest will be paid in March 1998, a perfectly normal procedure in Israeli accounting, which was agreed upon with the ICAA.

Oron says that some of the participants in the 1996 festival got their money finally in March 1997, and there were those who had to wait until September.

The ministry and the ICAA have both issued press releases insisting that they have done all they can for the festival, and while all their regretful bureaucrats at the various offices see their paychecks regularly deposited, others are not so fortunate, whether suppliers or artists. They have had to absorb costs from their own pockets.

One actress, who gave her supermarket deferred checks in the expectation of being paid for Acre, has had her checks returned. Some malcontents threatened one of the young producers with a beating because she could not pay them for set construction. One of the directors had to return to her parents' home because she has no money to pay the rent, while another was threatened with eviction from her apartment.

"It will all be paid eventually," says a thoroughly frustrated Oron, who is owed his own salary; "in the meantime, there are people with no food in the fridge. I say this at the ministry and to the Acre Municipality and they just sit there. There's nobody to talk to."

Meanwhile, for legal reasons, the ICAA is to be disbanded at the end of this month. Afraid that then there will literally be no one to talk to, Eldor and Ezrati have filed suit against the trust for their money and are seeking a lien on its assets.

'The world's greatest piece of music'

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

There was a time when pianist Boris Berman was known for playing a lot of contemporary music as well as some Russian works. But he says, "the center of my repertoire was never just Russian, quite the contrary. I recorded the entire Prokofiev piano works, so I played a lot of his music; but I never played, for example, the music of Tchaikovsky or Rachmaninoff.

These days I'm quite selective about the engagements I accept. But I never say no to any invitation from Israel. It's very important for me to come here as often as I can. It just happened that in 1979 I was at Brandeis and then invited to teach at Boston University and later at Yale. One thing led to another. But because I like to teach, this is the right place for me. I believe Yale is the best place I can think of teaching, in terms of quality and level of students and the flexibility that I can have with my performing career."

Berman is also a very active recording pianist, with more than 20 discs to his credit. And he is about to begin writing a book about piano playing and teaching. But within all this activity, the one thing he always looks forward to is his next trip to Israel. He loves this country and enjoys playing here more than he can express.

Boris Berman plays at the Haifa Auditorium December 14, 15, 17 and 18, with one concert this Saturday at the North Theater in Kiryat Haim. Estonian maestro Arvo Volmer is on the podium leading the orchestra in Arvo Part's *Frates and Nielsen's fourth symphony*.

As for contemporary music, he says, "When I was younger I did a lot more, but now I don't have as much time to learn new scores."

These days Berman's time is divided between teaching at Yale, where he is the head of the piano department, and giving concerts and recitals all over the world. "I always play in Hong Kong, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand in our summer."

The last time he was in Haifa, Berman played Brahms's second piano concerto, which he deems "the greatest piece of music in the world." This time he returns for the same composer's first concerto. "Even if I don't have enough opportunities for self-display in this work, it is definitely a concerto. In fact, it's an extraordinarily rewarding concerto to play even if there are fewer passages of technical bravura."

"And although there is quite a long orchestral opening where the piano is not featured, once the piano enters it is the protagonist throughout. There is nothing in this concerto that leaves me unsatisfied."

Berman elaborates that this concerto features a unique combina-

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Planet-health warning

The great divisions between the world's North and South threatened to derail the global climate conference in Japan before it even got on to its tracks. The threat has not gone away, but halfway through the conference there are at least some mutterings of compromise coming from the energy-greedy nations of the West - primarily the United States.

The European negotiators yesterday welcomed a hint of American flexibility on how far it might be willing to go in cutting its fuel emissions under a new global warming treaty. But European nods of approval were somewhat undermined by their own uncompromising rejection of suggestions that they allow cuts on European emissions that go further than American ones. In other words, they were happy to pat the head that follows, but are not prepared to take a lead based on their own moralizing.

There are times when the conference itself seems lost in a fog of deceit and uncontrolled verbal emissions. Most parts of the conference are highly technical and conducted in a version of United Nations English few English-speakers, let alone anyone else, can understand. This in itself, rather than the inevitable disagreements, could yet be the meeting's failure. The UN has called the climate conference the most important ever held for the future of the planet, implying that the price of failure to control dangerous pollution of the atmosphere will be ultimate catastrophe.

Yet it could come up with no more snappy a title than the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Conference of the Parties, third session. Even abbreviated this rounds out to UNFCCC-COP-3 - hardly likely to catch the editor's eye in a busy newsroom. The meeting is known to the delegates, if to no one else, as "COP 3." Hence this supposedly vital 10-day conference of more than 160 nations started off infected by the numbing amalgamation of environmental sciences and UN bureaucracy.

This is a fog that lends itself admirably to what the delegates have been doing - saying "no" to every possible sensible suggestion in a variety of different ways. At the start of the weekend, after nearly a week of turgid debate, no one could say with certainty if any progress has been made. That leaves the way open for the "final fudge" - the classic UN way of ending any conference. Within 24 hours of the thousands of participants dispersing to fill the global atmosphere with more jet exhaust from their planes, the conference will have faded from global memory if it does not come up with some

serious remedies for the inexorable climate changes which seem to be the price of the march of progress.

Unlikely as such serious decisions are, the conference would be doing the world a service if it could at least come up with a global agreement on what it is talking about. Opinions expressed at the meeting so far have ranged from the naive to the apocalyptic. "No one cares about global warming - everyone likes warm weather" said a think-tank guru from Stanford University.

On paper, the 2,000 delegates are expected to mandate global cuts in the emission of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gases. These trap heat in the atmosphere, shift global temperatures, raise ocean levels, and may be tending toward dangerous and unpredictable changes in the horrendously powerful but currently stable world climate system that supports life. If nothing is done, say even the cautious scientists, the planet's ecosystem will suffer irreversible damage.

All very well, say Third World delegates, for those who never thought about it while they were developing their own industries and economies, and now start preaching about the dangers. They say it is the same as the descendants of those who shot most of Asia's tigers bullying poor countries to save what's left of them. With a new economic crisis looming across Asia, it is not the most tactful time for Westerners - who still are responsible for most of the industrial emissions - to start bullying these states to clean up their industrial act.

Even in the West, businessmen will not add the huge costs of the cleanup to their budgets unless they are sure all their competitors are being equally burdened. Neither is there agreement over whose responsibility it is to pay for cleaning up the air everybody breathes. It is not surprising, therefore, that the turgid conference debates resemble a multidimensional chess tournament - and most of the players don't know the rules. At the weekend, the idea being discussed was for the US to take a smaller cut in emissions than Europe, up to 2010, but catch up over a longer period. This week some higher-level officials, including US Vice President Al Gore, will descend on Kyoto to try to nail delegates' pens to a final agreement.

The final protocol will probably be no more binding than a label on a cigarette pack - "Warning! Industrial emissions may damage the planet's health." It's not much, but any start will be better than none. It took tobacco warnings 30 years to start being effective. One can only hope our fragile planet has that much time to spare before climate treaties do the same.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ROAD BEHAVIOR

Sir, - Zaida Harris, in her letter "Road Safety" (November 24), rightly points out that in spite of technologically advanced measures and appropriate legislation, Israel's "road death toll has not been reduced in the past four years."

Why? A lack of courtesy and consideration for others is, I believe, the basic reason for the high road toll.

So long as we regard it as acceptable to throw out our rubbish onto our gardens and streets, to bump

fellow pedestrians without apologizing, to blast car horns without regard for others, then we cannot claim we are a civilized society. The solution is to teach or children to behave as courteous and civilized people with consideration for others. Then, perhaps, in the next generation we can be proud of our road behavior.

KEITH T. SOLOMON

Petah Tikvah.

KEEP YOUR HEAD

Sir, - It occurs to me that the following lines, with a quote from Rudyard Kipling's poem "If," may be aptly applied to our prime minister:

"If you can keep your head when those about you seem to be

losing theirs" ...it is just possible that you do not fully understand the situation.

GABRIEL MOSBERG

Tel Aviv.

CELTIC VICTORY

Sir, - In your article on the back page of the *Jerusalem Post* of December 1, you stated that Celtic defeated Dundee to hold onto third place in the Scottish Premier League.

The fact is that the game was the Scottish League Cup Final and not the Scottish Premier League. This means that Celtic held onto third place without even playing and added a nice bit of silverware to their cabinet at the same time.

This letter comes from three Celtic supporters:

JEREMY M. DUKE-COHAN,
DEREK BRADLEY,
RAYMOND LANTIN

Rehovot.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 7, 1932, *The Palestine Post* reported on widespread anti-Jewish riots in Poland. More than 350 Jews were reported to have been injured in Lemberg (Lvov), many of them seriously.

The small number of Jews employed in public works in Palestine in general, and in Jerusalem in particular, as compared with their proportion of the population was called to the attention of the House of Commons. New features like the Crossword Puzzle and Moods and Modes were introduced to *The Palestine Post*.

50 years ago: On December 7, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that the British Cabinet had instructed Sir Alexander Cadogan to make the following proposals to the UN Palestine Commission: (1) Britain would surrender the Mandate for all Palestine on May 15, 1948; (2) The transition period during which the UN Commission was to install the provisional Arab and Jewish governments should last two weeks; (3) The Jewish

and the Palestine Arab States were to be proclaimed on June 1, 1948.

There were severe anti-Jewish riots in Aden. There were 13 dead in clashes all along the Tel Aviv-Jaffa border. Salameh Village, on the road to Lod Airport, was the scene of the most violent flare-up. Five Jews were killed and many others injured there when British troops and police arrived and joined in the shooting, inflicting three Jewish fatalities. Shooting continued throughout the night, while a bomb was thrown from a car at an Arab cafe in the Abu Kabir quarter.

Jerusalem's Princess Mary Avenue [today Helen Hamalka Street] remained a no-man's land with barbed-wire barriers. Many side streets were also blocked by barbed-wire fences. Five Jews and three Arabs were injured in various incidents. Arab buses were stoned on Jaffa Road after Ya'acov Cohen (23) was stabbed in the back five times near the Jaffa Gate. Registration began of all young Jewish men between the ages 17 and 25 for security and other essential services.

Alexander Zvielli

It's the Mossad; they want to know if their source isn't lying.



US imperatives in the Gulf

HENRY KISSINGER

The crisis over the expulsion of UN observers from Iraq has temporarily eased. But the way it was handled by the Clinton Administration has made another, similar, crisis highly probable. It is therefore important to draw the appropriate lessons. Though Saddam Hussein is often described as a madman, his strategy to loosen and ultimately overturn the restraints placed upon him by the UN inspection system is in fact quite rational. On the two occasions on which the Clinton administration used force against Iraq, it resorted to mere pinpricks. In 1993, in response to an alleged Iraqi plot against former president Bush,

The hesitation of the former Gulf coalition to step up to the crisis was in large part due to doubts about America's ultimate strategy

the administration announced a nighttime cruise-missile attack on an empty building in Baghdad to avoid civilian casualties. And in 1996, after Saddam virtually eliminated the leadership of the autonomous Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq, established and supported by America, the administration reacted with inconsequential raids against radar sites in the south, nearly 1,600 kilometers from the Iraqi challenge.

Having concluded that he had little to fear from American military action, Saddam saw a political opportunity when Russia and France recently blocked a weak Security Council resolution to put baby teeth into the UN inspection effort. On the basis of this, Saddam was quite rational to conclude that the political response to challenging the UN restraints would be no more meaningful than the military one.

The administration's first reaction to Saddam's threat to expel American inspectors was to warn that the issue was non-negotiable. Yet it acquiesced in - if it did not encourage - a three-man UN mission to Iraq, an inherent invitation to compromise.

Saddam probably never sought the complete elimination of UN inspections, at least not in the first round. Almost certainly, his real aim was to achieve a veto over the conduct of inspections, to increase the obstacles to effective enforcement and to trigger a diplomacy that would ultimately undermine the UN effort by weakening the core of the Western coalition and encouraging a broader Russian role in the area.

This is why, from the very beginning, Deputy Prime Minister Tarik Aziz asked only for reducing the proportion of Americans on the inspection teams and for an easing of sanctions.

Saddam understood that any change in inspection procedures or any modification of sanctions under threat would spell success for him, undermine the confidence of the weak Gulf states, embolden Iran, the chief threat to the area, and erode American leadership.

GIVEN these stakes, the overarching American objective should have been to bring about an unconditional return to the precise inspection system that had existed when the inspectors were expelled, together with strict accounting for the diversion of prohibited material during the hiatus in inspections.

The US needed to demonstrate by action, word and nuance its determination to impose this solution, if necessary by unilateral American action together with whatever other countries would join us. Half-way measures were, in fact, the most dangerous because they increased the risk of prolonging the crisis and a blow-

up under circumstances in which America rather than Saddam has become the issue.

Our reiterated commitment to multilateral action and to demonstrating a conciliatory, hence compromising, attitude ran counter to these imperatives.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's traveling party held out the prospect of "carrots" for Saddam - later disavowed by the White House, though the disavowal seemed to refer to the word more than to the substance.

High-level leaks conveyed that we would go along with a "restructuring" of the inspection teams to enhance "their effectiveness." Similarly, administration spokesmen stated from the first that the US, concerned about the people of Iraq, would not stand in the way of easing sanctions for humanitarian purposes.

But any change in the composition of inspection teams, especially one that reduces the proportion of Americans and increases the number of Russian and French inspectors, would politicize the inspection process. And if we are honest with ourselves, we will recognize that humanitarian "sanctions" are a contradiction in terms.

The concept of "sanctions" reflects the illusion that a form of international social ostracism will induce a change in Saddam's behavior - a preposterous proposition in dealing with one of the most brutal of the world's rulers. Anyway, to ease sanctions under pressure from Saddam and Russia would deprive us even of credit for

each of the permanent members of the Security Council, and that the books on nuclear inspections be closed. This would transfer the deadlocks of the United Nations to the inspection apparatus.

And France has continued to speak of showing Saddam a light at the end of the tunnel - a euphemism for rewarding intransigence.

It is certainly important to explore the utility of the much-invoked strategic partnership with the new Russia. But not if we encourage it to act as the lawyer of Saddam or to pursue the same policies as those of the old Russia.

The conduct of France raises a more long-range challenge. As Europe adopts a common currency, common political institutions are likely to follow. And there are two schools of thought on how North Atlantic relations should evolve thereafter. France's, which insists on bringing about a European identity by distinguishing its policy from America's; or Britain's, which seeks to develop a common policy through cooperation and consensus - as it demonstrated by its support of the United States throughout the crisis.

It is in the American interest and in the interest of the future of the North Atlantic alliance that the cooperative approach prevail. But the diplomacy of the administration has in effect rewarded France for a policy described in the Nov. 2 issues of *Etihaad*, an official newspaper of the Iranian Islamic regime, which praised the "emerging Teheran-Moscow-

ed, whatever the technical explanations?

The foreign ministers of the permanent members of the Security Council met at 2 a.m. in Geneva to end the crisis. This obliged the secretary of state to cut short a visit to India to accommodate Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov's scheduled trip to Latin America. Did this not convey loss of mastery over the process and excessive eagerness?

I criticize with regret an administration whose policies on China, NATO expansion and Fast Track trade negotiations I have supported. Its past record of learning from experience leads me to hope that the situation is still remediable.

When the administration blamed Arab foot-dragging on the alleged intransigence of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, it dangerously confused this issue

ble, especially since, in all likelihood, we have witnessed only the first stage of a longer crisis.

The United States faces two imperatives: defining a policy to deal with the immediate situation; and devising a long-range strategy for the Gulf. With respect to the immediate situation, any modification of the inspection system or easing of sanctions undermines the long-term ability of the United States to protect the Gulf. The United States should therefore reverse the Geneva "compromise," by which the inspectors returned to Baghdad in exchange for a diplomatic process to review the composition of the inspection teams and an easing of the food-for-oil sanction.

Specifically: - We should stick to the proposition that only the Security Council can change the structure, mission or composition of UN inspection teams, and we should use our veto against any such attempt.

- We should refuse any modification in the food-for-oil program until the inspectors have had unimpeded access for at least four months to all sites, including the so-called presidential sites - Saddam's alleged residences, from which they are still barred.

- We should prepare for military action to exact full compliance with inspection procedures. These should be designed to deprive Saddam of the chief elements of his military structure. The present crisis is the result of years of drift during which the question of our ultimate purposes was deferred while the basis for the existing policy was eroding.

A coherent long-range strategy for the Gulf must be devised urgently to deal with some questions admittedly not easily answered: Can dual containment - the policy of basing Gulf policy on simultaneous opposition to Iran and Iraq - work?

What other countries must be involved? What is the role of Turkey and how is its role in the Gulf to be related to other Turkish priorities? And if the policy is to be modified, toward which country, by what methods and to what end - always keeping in mind that after all that has passed between Saddam and the United States, a settlement with him is impossible for the US in the foreseeable future?

How do we deal with Russia so that it cannot combine the phraseology of strategic partnership with the reality of an adversarial relationship? How can we rally our allies to a common course and give them a sense of participation in defining it?

(Los Angeles Times Syndicate)

صكنا من الاصل

UseNet: The ultimate bulletin board in cyberspace

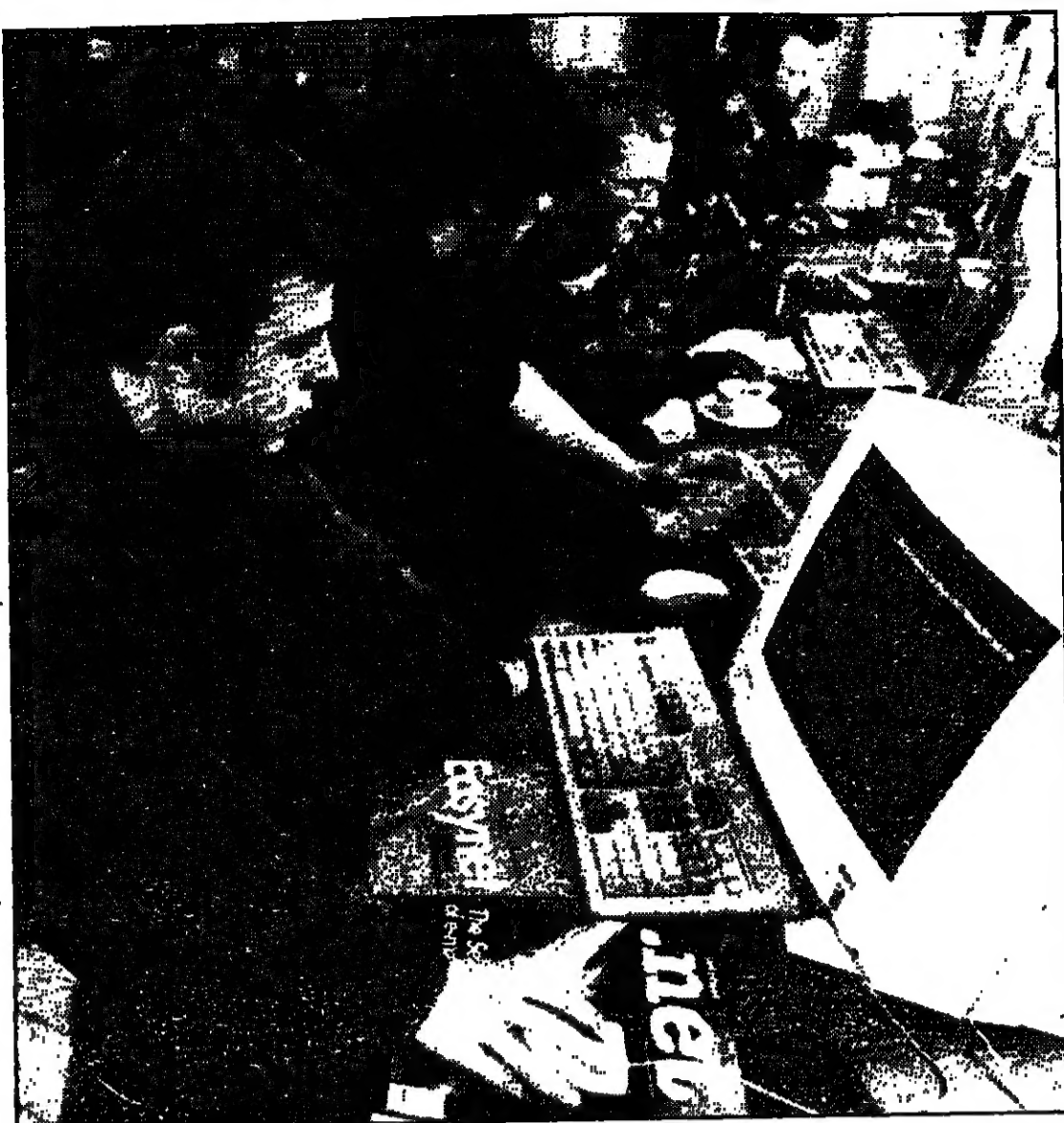
By LOU DOLINAR

Think of them as the electronic equivalent of the office water cooler or the coffee machine – a place to hang out and gossip with others. Only in this case, there are a few million people, all shouting at the same time.

Intimate, raucous and just plain weird, UseNet newsgroups, as they're called, are not for the kind of news that fills the daily papers. Rather, newsgroups represent a true "vox populi," a forum for the exchange of ideas on just about every topic imaginable. The good news about UseNet is that it allows you to broadcast your opinions to the millions of sophisticated computer users around the world. The bad news is that you have to listen to the rest of the world tell you why your opinions are ridiculous, naive and wrong.

Not too surprisingly, there's a fair amount of Internet lore devoted to explaining to newbies how not to look like idiots on UseNet. You can have this kind of dialogue on everything from computers to sex to sport. At last count, there were more than 20,000 such topics, or individual newsgroups. For a good sampling, take a look at <http://www.eskimo.com>, which has a plain-English description of many of these newsgroups; it's a big file, so don't be surprised if your browser chokes.

Newsgroups are organized in a hierarchy, with each main category starting out in one of 12 ways: alt (alternative newsgroups, including the sexually oriented ones), bit (mailing lists), biz (advertisements for businesses), clarinet (subscription-only news clippings), comp (computers, not surprisingly the biggest and most useful), k12 (educational, kindergarten through grade 12), misc (miscellaneous), news (not newsgroups, but news about UseNet), rec (recreational, sports, hobbies, music games, sci (applied sciences), soc (social and cultural topics) and talk (discussion of controversial subjects). The indexing system is generally so



The problem with broadcasting your opinions to millions around the world is that you have to listen to everyone tell you your opinions are ridiculous.

screwed that it often makes more sense to use a search engine to look up subjects on UseNet that interest you.

Note that you don't have to post stuff on UseNet to get a lot of use out of it. You can just read the groups that interest you (a process called lurking), or you can look up what other people have said. For example, if you're looking for information on trou-

bleshotting a particular brand of sound card, odds are that someone else has the same problem and has written about it in a discussion group. Deja News and Alta Vista let you wade through these millions of dialogues for the information that specifically interests you. The other reference function of UseNet is the FAQ, or Frequently Asked Questions, which represents the collective memory of the

particular group. Most newsgroups have one or more FAQs associated with them. The purpose of the FAQ is to let newcomers get up to speed without wasting everyone else's time asking the same old questions over and over. If you plan to participate (as opposed to just "lurk") in a newsgroup, you should find and review its various FAQs first. Even if you aren't participating, FAQs –

which can be book-length – have scads of useful information, particularly about computers. You can get a list of UseNet FAQs at <http://www.bookcase.com/library/faq/by-title.html>.

HOW DOES UseNet work? You can think of it as a bulletin board where you post messages and e-mails for others to read. Every Internet provider has a news server, which receives feeds from other news servers, automatically duplicating contents across thousands of servers on the Internet. On the receiving side, your service provider decides which of the thousands of groups to carry and which to filter out, such as the more grotesquely pornographic groups devoted to sex.

You decide which of those groups you wish to subscribe to. Just use your Web browser's news reader to look at the contents of the group you've selected. On the sending side, your news reader also lets you post messages to the group in reply to a specific message, which in turn is spawned across the entire Net. Messages that make up a series of replies to the same subject are called a thread, and your news reader can sort these to-and-fros into a coherent string.

There are two kinds of newsgroups: moderated and unmoderated. The unmoderated ones are a free-for-all. Anything that's sent into them is automatically passed on to all subscribers. You'll tend to have to wade through tons of nonsense on one of these to find anything interesting. Moderated groups, on the other hand, have one or more human beings in charge of filtering out irrelevant or erroneous posts, petty bickering, abusiveness and profanity.

Newsgroups are what I like to think of as the old Internet, the one that existed before the megacorporations moved in and took over. As such, they reflect the graduate student, hard sciences and free information for the people. While some outfits like Deja News are making money off UseNet, there are still many dedicated volunteers who manage to keep things rolling. (Newsday)

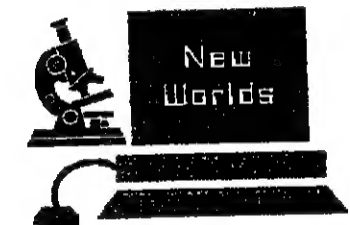
TELL ME WHY

Deformed brain

By ADAM TANNER

Why do some people have deformed brains? It's a question that has puzzled scientists for years. Now, a new study suggests that the answer may lie in the way the brain develops. The study, published in the journal *Neuroscience*, found that the brains of some people are "deformed" in a way that makes them more susceptible to certain types of mental illness. The researchers found that the brains of these people have a higher density of certain types of neurons, which are the cells that transmit information in the brain. This higher density of neurons is thought to be the result of a genetic mutation. The researchers also found that the brains of these people have a higher density of certain types of synapses, which are the connections between neurons. This higher density of synapses is thought to be the result of a genetic mutation. The researchers believe that these genetic mutations may be the cause of certain types of mental illness, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. The study is the first to show a direct link between brain structure and mental illness. It is a significant step forward in our understanding of the brain and mental health.

Watching for earthquakes from space



By Post Science Reporter

Five global positioning system (GPS) stations around Israel will use satellites to monitor movements of tectonic plates under the Jordan Rift and assess the risk of earthquakes in this high-risk region.

GPS was developed by the US Defense Department to provide three-dimensional images of what is happening under the earth's surface, via satellite.

The five stations will be built in the Golan, Galilee, the Giliat region, in Mitzpe Ramon and in the western Negev, joining the existing 80 stations forming a GPS network around the world.

The three-year project for building GPS infrastructure for geophysical applications was launched by the geophysics and planetary sciences department of Tel Aviv University, San Diego's Scripps Oceanographic Institute, and the Israel Geological Institute, with funding from the Science Ministry's Israel Space Agency and the Israel Mapping Center.

The antennae will receive signals from 24 Defense Department satellites, which are 20,000 kilometers above earth. At any one time, signals from four of them can be monitored and "sampled" every 30 seconds, says Dr. Shimon Vadovinsky, the TAU geophysicist who is chief researcher of the local project. He adds that there are plans for Jordan to build GPS stations soon to monitor underground movements from the other side of the Jordan and Dead Sea.

Movement of tectonic plates deep below the surface of the earth causes energy to be released, and this can trigger earthquakes. The last major quake in the area, in November 1995, caused serious damage in Eilat. The data will have major implications on building standards, planning for Dead Sea hotel construction and property insurance rates, says Vadovinsky.

Eventually, the information will also be used for weather prediction in real time, since GPS signals are affected by the movement of moisture in the atmosphere.

'BEST' WEB HOOKUP

The two best Internet providers

in Israel are Internet Zahav (for business clients) and Actcom (for home users), according to *Obyektiv*, the Israeli consumer magazine.

The two were compared with NetVision, Infolink and Shani, the other major providers in the country. They were ranked according to price, percentage of disconnections, speed of data transmission and access to and quality of technical support. Smaller providers were not examined.

The magazine also advised Internet customers to choose a provider whose local phone number is not only in their area code, but also in their dialing area, of which there are 30 around the country. 16 of them in the (03) Tel Aviv region. If the provider is in a different dialing area, one will be charged more for Net connections. Ask a potential Internet provider for this information.

CIVIL SERVICE AT YOUR SERVICE

The Civil Service Commission has launched its own Internet site with a wide variety of information for state employees and the general public. The site, at <http://www.civil-service.gov.il>, lists in detail all public tenders for vacant state positions, gives information on the rights and responsibilities of government employees and provides a dictionary of concepts used in civil service matters.

The Web site will soon include the entire collection of civil service regulations (known in Hebrew as the *takshir*). During its running-in period, the site managers are asking for comments from users.

THE DEMOCRATIC NET

The Internet era will improve the political process in Israel, according to Science Minister Michael Eitan. Lecturing at the Oracle Technologies Week event in Tel Aviv recently, Eitan said that while preparing the last Likud Party convention he discovered that there were cases in which information was withheld about the number of delegates certain party branches were entitled to send.

"This would have been impossible if information technology were implemented listing on the Internet an updated list of all settlements and delegates. This technology would create a much stronger democracy," he said.

Information "should not be the property of the authorities, but of the citizenry – except for security information, matters of privacy and legal matters," Eitan said.

Life on Mir space station: Something to e-mail your friends back home about

By ADAM TANNER

Anyone who thinks life in space is glamorous should speak to David Wolf, a US astronaut on the orbiting Russian Mir space station, who has a load of chores that includes cleaning the toilet and scrubbing fluff from air filters.

Because the crews before his were so busy dealing with a fire, a crash and other mishaps, "it's now up to us to return this remarkable ship into top shape," he wrote to friends on Earth via e-mail. (Wolf's letters from space are published occasionally in *The Jerusalem Post*.)

"Unfortunately for me, that means things like organizing and cleaning – tasks my mother can attest to that I didn't always excel at back on earth," he wrote. "But she sure would be proud of me now. I spent most of today in the bathroom, organizing and cleaning it, not using it."

Wolf joined the 11-year-old space station in late September after a summer during which Mir collided with a cargo re-supply ship and then suffered a series of mechanical failures. The US space agency NASA delayed its decision on whether it was safe for Wolf to fly until just hours before his departure.

Since arriving, Wolf, a 41-year-old medical doctor and researcher, has taken part in experiments and repairs to the station, which Russia hopes to keep in orbit until early 1999. He has also written a series of e-mail letters home, distinctive for their sense of humor, boyish enthusiasm and self-deprecating style.

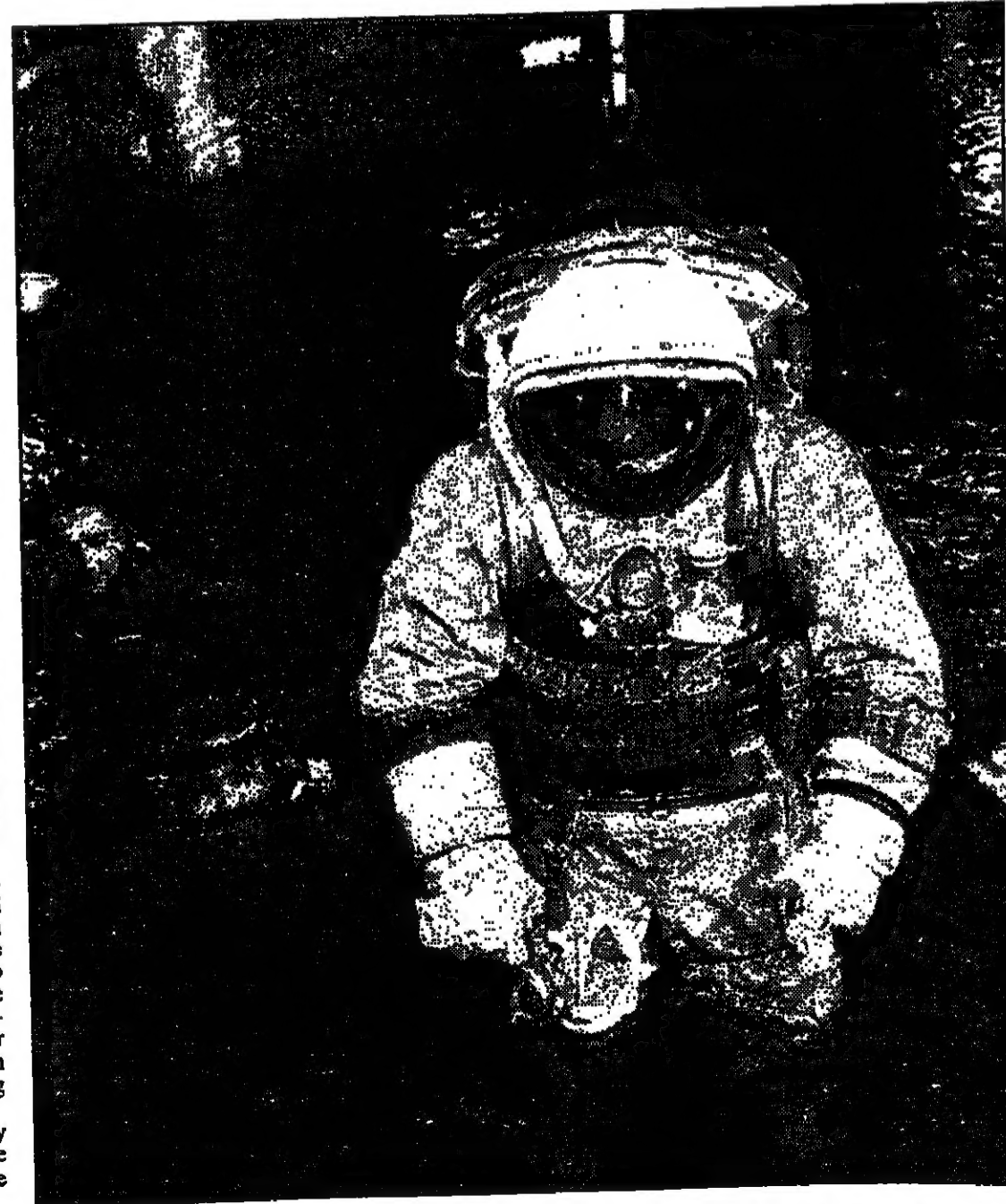
"Micro-gravity can be a very difficult, even frustrating, place to work, but it can also be fun, he wrote.

"The work days are long but there really isn't anywhere else much to go." In many of his letters, Wolf expresses admiration for Mir, warts and all.

"Its overall character brings forth the image of the 'time machine' from H.G. Wells's classic."

Inside, one finds many odd relics of missions past, he says. "Signatures and instruction placards written by the hands of over a decade of cosmonauts... Tables with things on both sides. A bicycle with no seat. A set of heavy tools held in place by rubber bands," he wrote.

He also marvels at Mir's life



US astronaut David Wolf says life on the orbiting Mir space station can be distinctly unglamorous, with a load of chores that includes cleaning the toilet and scrubbing fluff from air filters. (Reuters)

support systems, which recycle urine and sweat into air and water.

"The water is really evaporatively purified urine, produced by the adjacent urine reclamation system. The toilet, of course, would then be directly across the aisle."

But maintaining systems such as the Elektron oxygen generator require labor befitting a space janitor.

"Here I carefully pump out the grapefruit size wobbling globes of water," he wrote. "A clumsy move sends water scattering in

all directions. This chore generally serves as a morning shower."

Like the previous American astronaut on Mir, Wolf also lost his bedroom, in his case after a leak developed in the Kvant-2 hatch next to his cabin.

Wolf now says he sleeps near a cramped storage area of the Kristall module, where he found himself a bit disoriented after waking up on the ceiling one morning.

"Pushed a space shuttle-delivered water bag away from my face. Fumbled in the blackness of

the night side for that spot of Velcro holding my mini-maglite," he described. "Floated out of the marginally tethered sleeping bag and banged my head on the helmet of a ragged old spacesuit, long since cannibalized for parts."

Named NASA's inventor of the year in 1992, Wolf also describes feeling a wide array of emotions, including the moment when the US space shuttle undocked from Mir, leaving him behind for his four-month mission.

"I remember the place I last felt

this: I was 10 years old, as my parents' station wagon pulled away from my first summer camp in southern Indiana," he wrote.

"That satisfying thrill that something new is going to happen, and we don't know what it is yet." Even though earth is as close as a half-day journey by the Soyuz escape capsule, Wolf says home seems very far away. "Earth seems a bit dream-like these days. As we are connected only by crackling voices on the radio and the photographs

Since arriving in Mir, David Wolf has written a series of letters distinctive for their sense of humor and self-deprecating style.

brought along and our memories," he wrote.

He also describes times of boredom, such as when his two Russian crewmates made a space walk while he waited in the Soyuz capsule.

"I opened up the package of macadamia nuts I brought with me and sat there locked tight for almost eight hours. I learned an invaluable lesson. Next time, I will bring a good book."

Another space lesson: life without gravity is not as easy as it looks.

"Apparently it takes longer than three weeks to get totally used to no gravity," he wrote in October. "I am still trying to figure out how not to become upside down when putting my pants on. Don't worry, though. I have plenty of time to figure it out."

Life in outer space can also appear dream-like and cinematic, Wolf explained as he related being left in charge during another space walk, when he thought of Captain Kirk, hero of *Star Trek*.

"I felt like the kid in *Home Alone* as I assumed Tolya's usual posture at the central command post, the cockpit. Or was it Kirk's position? Dream and reality run so close here."

(Reuters)



Septuplets spark concerns about fertility treatments

By RICK WEISS

The unprecedented birth of septuplets in Iowa has sparked intense criticism from ethicists and doctors, with several warning that fertility treatments are being used indiscriminately and irresponsibly at great medical risk to women and their offspring and at growing expense to the general public.

So far, all seven children born in Iowa to Bobbi and Kenny McCaughey are doing well. But multiple births beyond triplets usually are characterized by some degree of physical or cognitive disability, critics said, and in most cases they can and ought to be avoided.

Katherine Hauser, the fertility doctor who worked with the McCaugheys, has defended her care, saying she used the same dose of a fertility drug she had used with the couple two years earlier. In that instance, the drug led to the birth of a single daughter. But for reasons that remain unclear, she says, "in this cycle we achieved more success than we could ever hope for."

Critics, however, said they were unsatisfied with that explanation. They claim that when the McCaugheys' doctors saw that their fertility treatment had led to the maturation of about three times the expected number of eggs, the prudent move would have been to withhold addition of the husband's sperm and try in another month or two, when a more modest number of eggs were produced.

"Here we had a nice ending," said Mark Sauer, chief of reproductive endocrinology at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. "However, if she had died or the babies had lifelong problems with cerebral palsy or some other complications, it would have been a nightmare. Even now, with the poten-

tial for psychosocial problems, it may still become a nightmare. And society certainly has the right to ask why did this happen and were there alternatives."

ROGER KEMPERS, medical director of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine in Birmingham, Alabama, says the society's guidelines call for doctors to avoid large-scale multiple births.

One problem is that ovarian overstimulation can cause swelling and bleeding of the ovaries and severe fluid retention that can lead in rare cases to heart failure.

Women carrying multiple fetuses also are at risk of potentially fatal blood clots and other complications during pregnancy and delivery, and the children often require expensive follow-up care for years.

Kempers says Germany recently passed legislation prohibiting doctors from using a common fertility technique to create more than three offspring per mother. But he said there are many ways to avoid multiple births without legislation or having to resort to aborting one or several of the fetuses — an option the McCaugheys said they opposed on religious grounds.

"We think it's better if we can self-regulate this than having the federal government coming in," Kempers adds.

Other experts said they were concerned that if fertility specialists do not rein themselves in, their credibility as advocates for their patients will plummet and the profession might find itself the subject of congressional attention.

"By and large, infertility treatment in the US has grown up as an entrepreneurial field rather than as a scientific field, so many of the things doctors are doing in the way of fertility treatments

have not met the same standards of scientific scrutiny that we think," says Thomas Murray, director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics at Case Western Reserve University.

Murray was gratified the McCaughey children are doing well, however, and does not begrudge the parents' decision to carry all seven fetuses to term.

Sauer said it would have been obvious that McCaughey's ovaries had overreacted to the drug used to stimulate an infertile woman's ovaries.

"She must have had a dozen or more eggs going, and if she were being monitored correctly, they had to know she was grossly overstimulated before she got it," he said. "That's not even a borderline call; it's a cavalier decision to give a woman like that a shot of this drug. If we see more than four or five, we cancel those cycles."

Cancelling a treatment cycle, however, means the patient is left with thousands of dollars and sometimes women insist on going forward.

"There's a tremendous pressure to deliver the goods, but doctors have to draw the line," Sauer said. Otherwise, he says, "you get the backlash. People say, 'Those damn fertility doctors.'"

"You can never have perfect control" over the number of eggs produced by fertility treatments, said Richard Paulson, director of the division of reproductive endocrinology and infertility at the University of Southern California. But overstimulation can be avoided, he said, by using less potent drugs that have lower success rates.

In the December issue of *Fertility and Sterility*, Paulson and his colleagues describe a new method of egg stimulation and retrieval that helps limit the number of eggs released.

(Washington Post)

A hypnotic solution to ringing in the ears

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOWICH

If you've ever had a mosquito buzzing in your ear or a car siren echoing in the distance, you've experienced a sample of chronic tinnitus — except that this buzzing or ringing in the ears can't be swatted away or turned off.

Tens of thousands of Israelis suffer from this condition, and it can be so disruptive to normal life and sleep that a desperate minority even consider suicide to end it all.

If tinnitus — which can be caused by a variety of factors — goes away in several months, consider yourself lucky; if it continues beyond half a year, it's regarded as chronic, and there is no cure.

But there is now hope that your mind can be trained not to hear it. Self-hypnosis is one of the techniques used in clinics at the Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv and Soroka Hospital in Beersheva to help patients cope with this mind-boggling disorder.

Tinnitus is nearly always a subjective complaint of hearing a sound or sounds that are attributed to the ears or the head, says Dr. Zecharya Shemesh, a specialist who runs the three public hospital clinics, as well as his own private clinic, to treat tinnitus. In some patients, unsteadiness and vertigo may accompany the noise, and they complain of a sensation that "the world is going around" or that their head is moving (even when it isn't).

In a handful of cases, the doctor can put his ear to the patient's head and objectively hear the noise — which could be due to a heart murmur or a tic disorder. But the vast majority of sufferers are the only ones to hear this constant noise, and it can't even be detected by audiological instruments. It can drone on in one ear or both; bilateral tinnitus is more common, especially when caused by exposure to high-decibel noise.

The American Tinnitus Association reported recently that the average age of Americans with the condition has dropped to 39 — apparently because of teenagers and young adults who listened to rock music in the Sixties and Seventies. It's even possible that President Bill Clinton — who has just been equipped with tiny in-ear hearing aids due to overexposure to noise as a young man — suffers from tinnitus, but no official report to this effect has been released.

Shemesh says that due to military service, the average age of Israeli sufferers is even lower — even though tinnitus is common among the elderly as well. Today, he stresses, prevention of hearing loss in the army is an important issue, and soldiers are actually punished for failing to protect their ears from explosions. But before this became a policy, much damage was done, as it still is in some industries and to victims of terror blast attacks.

He also decries the widespread custom of ear-bending music at Israeli weddings and bar mitzvas, as if the performers get paid by the decibel. "We had a bar mitzva for

our son without any music at all, and when it was over, the guests came over to us and congratulated us on how pleasant it was to be able to talk to each other," Shemesh recalls.

A graduate of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical Faculty, Shemesh went on to specialize in psychiatry in 1980. Under the guidance of his teacher, Prof. Haim Somer, he became interested in hypnosis and its effect on information reaching the ears.

It was Somer who suggested that Shemesh try to develop a technique for treating tinnitus patients. But he left the specialty before becoming a psychiatrist in order to spend time learning about tinnitus and geriatrics.

"There is pretty much one type of throat infection, but there are all kinds of tinnitus," Shemesh explains. "Every patient is different, and the doctor has to be a detective to find out the multifactorial causes." It is generally believed that tinnitus results from damage to the tiny hairs in the inner ear, and experiments on lab animals exposed to constant loud noise has shown this can be the case, but there is no way to restore these microscopic hairs.

Tinnitus may also reflect neural damage to fibers transmitting neural pulses from the brain stem to the cerebral cortex.

While men are more exposed to noise at work and in the military than women, viral and bacterial infections after childbirth, when women are weakened, can also be a factor. He warns parents against allowing their children to turn their Walkman tape or radio up high, as this constant noise can

irreversibly damage hearing. After patients are carefully examined in an otolaryngology department to determine whether a brain tumor (a one in a thousand occurrence) or an intra-cranial vascular abnormality is responsible for the tinnitus, they are admitted to one of the tinnitus clinics. Aside from the noise, patients may complain about insomnia, anxiety, an inability to tolerate noise, irritability, tiredness, a decrease in memory, difficulty in concentrating, dizziness — and even less pleasure from their daily activities than they used to.

Shemesh says he carefully assesses the results of medical tests and patient questionnaires to consider a suitable treatment program. A slightly abnormal result of thyroid function or blood sugar may sometimes be a trigger of tinnitus.

Even the taking of aspirin can cause some cases of irreversible tinnitus, he says. "People shouldn't take aspirin as a matter of course, but only when actually required by a cardiovascular or other condition," he advises. In his research, Shemesh and colleagues found that tinnitus is more common among people with a vitamin B12 deficiency — but unfortunately, giving patients the vitamin supplement does not cure them, since the neurological damage is done. Medications may be of help.

Biofeedback can help some patients live with their tinnitus, but electronic maskers — which make a "white noise" to cover the ringing in the ears — have been quite disappointing despite much enthusiasm years ago, Shemesh says.

Over the past 17 years, Shemesh

has become a believer in the benefits of self-hypnosis or relaxation techniques to teach the brain to disregard the constant noise. He teaches these techniques, customized according to the needs and personality of the patient, and says they are very effective. A study of 200 soldiers he conducted with colleagues in the Israel Defense Forces found a notable improvement in the quality of life of tinnitus patients. They reported an overall success rate of 90% — "higher than anywhere else in the world" — and many patients said the noise had "completely disappeared."

The health funds are reluctant to send members with tinnitus to Shemesh's clinics, he says, instead referring patients to their own ear-nose-and-throat specialists. "Even when they do, they pay only NIS 150 for a visit, which is way below the actual cost." As a result, the waiting list at Ichilov is an incredible four years, while at Hadassah it has been "brought down to two years."

Prof. Joseph Elidan, head of Hadassah's otolaryngology department, says that in order to increase income that could be invested in teaching more doctors the Shemesh technique, a new effort has been launched to encourage foreign tourists with tinnitus to come here for treatment. But since the charge is \$2,000 for seven visits over a period of two weeks, plus the costs of tests and a hotel stay, one would think such an offer will attract only the well-off who are really suffering.

An Internet site appears at <http://www.hadassah.org.il/hmo/ti.htm> to solicit such patients.



Dr. Zecharya Shemesh uses self-hypnosis or relaxation techniques to help improve the quality of life of people who suffer from tinnitus. (Ari Ellyou)

Pass (over) the margarine

By RIDGELY OCHS

It's not the amount, but the kind, of fat you eat, that increases your risk for heart disease, according to Boston researchers.

In a study that likely will fuel debate on what is the most healthful diet, Harvard researchers have found that how much trans fat — found in margarine and vegetable shortening — and saturated fat you eat contributes more to the risk of heart disease than your total fat intake. Eating more polyunsaturated fat, found in safflower, soy and corn oils, and monounsaturated fat, in olive and canola oils, is linked with a reduction in heart-disease risk, they say.

The study, published recently in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, used data from 80,082 women aged 34 to 59 who were followed over a 14-year period in the ongoing Nurses' Health Study. "People should avoid trans fats and reduce saturated fat. We recommend replacing unhealthy fats with monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats. These are beneficial. We don't recommend non-specific reduction in total fat intake," said the lead author, Dr. Frank Hu, of the Harvard School of Public Health.

The findings and recommendations are apt to be controversial. While US government guidelines call for fewer than 10% of calories daily from saturated fat — which is found in meats, dairy products and some vegetable oils, like coconut

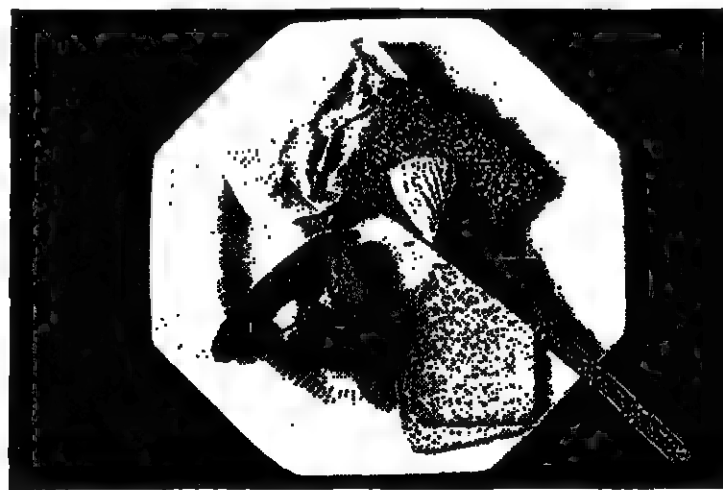
and palm — the thrust has been to get people to reduce overall fat intake from an average of 35% of total calories to 30%.

In an accompanying editorial, Dr. Tim Byers of the University of Colorado said about 5% to 10% of the fat in the American diet (or about 3% of the total diet) and about 5% of the fat stored in fatty tissue are trans fats. These are vegetable oils that have been artificially hydrogenated in order to become hardened, like vegetable shortening and margarine, and are used in many baked goods and snacks. The harder the margarine, the more trans fats it has.

"I think it's still a hypothesis, but this study gives it a lot more weight," said Dr. Marc Jacobson, director of the center for atherosclerosis prevention at Schneider Children's Hospital in New Hyde Park, N.Y., of the study's findings.

Wahida Karmally, director of nutrition research at New York's Columbia University, also was unprepared to discount the role of a high-fat diet in promoting heart disease.

COMPARING THE equivalent energy from carbohydrates, Hu and his colleagues found that a 2% increase in trans fats almost doubled the risk of heart disease, while a 5% increase in saturated fats was associated with a 17% increase in risk. By contrast, a 5% increase in polyunsaturated fats decreased the risk by 38%; a 5% increase in monounsaturated fats



The amount of trans fat — found in margarine and vegetable shortening — and saturated fat you eat contributes more to the risk of heart disease than your total fat intake.

made the risk drop by 19%. The level of total fat intake was not associated with an increase in heart disease risk, though dietary cholesterol intake was associated with a slight increase in risk of heart disease.

Hu said it's not clear why trans fats appear to be more deleterious than saturated fats. But he said metabolic studies have found that while saturated fats raise the level of LDL, the so-called "bad cholesterol," trans fats not only raise LDL levels, they also lower levels of HDL, the so-called "good cholesterol," and raise levels of triglycerides — blood fats also associated with heart disease.

By contrast, studies have found polyunsaturated fats lower cholesterol when substituted for saturated fats, and that when monounsaturated fats replace carbohydrates, they appear to raise HDL levels

without affecting LDL cholesterol, Hu and his colleagues said.

The study is part of a larger debate among experts about the role of fat and carbohydrates in heart disease. Hu and his colleagues — who published findings from the Nurses' Health Study in 1993 that found trans fat increased the risk of heart disease — contend the emphasis on lowering the amount of fat we eat has led to an increase in how many carbohydrates, often in the form of sugar, we take in. But they claim low-fat high-carbohydrate diets reduce HDL levels and raise triglyceride levels.

Nutrition experts contend that while eating many high-sugar foods is not healthful, the idea of replacing fat with fat does not take into account studies that have shown heart disease is directly related to the amount of fat in the diet. They admit this study is apt to befuddle many. (Newsday)

A 4th R for schools — Resuscitation

Health Scan



By Post Health Reporter

The Education Ministry has finally recognized the need for pupils and teachers to learn cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. It has hired Heart-To-Heart Israel, a voluntary organization that specializes in reducing the mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases through prevention and teaching life-saving techniques, to begin conducting three-hour CPR courses in the schools.

Professional counselors will lead the courses, which will include a lecture on heart function and heart attacks, the importance of correct diet and physical activity, dealing with stress and abstaining from smoking.

The organization, based in Kfar Sava, already distributes educational pamphlets to schools on these and other subjects.

HORSING AROUND IMPROVES LEARNING
Horseback riding by children with learning disabilities has been shown to improve their reading and arithmetic skills.

An educational psychologist in Petah Tikva, Shai Roditi, reached this conclusion after conducting tri-

als at the riding school in Ramat Gan National Park.

According to the Education Ministry's bulletin *Arutz Hinuchi*, the children's riding improved their adaptive ability, their coordination, their self-esteem and self-confidence, and their ability to relate to others.

Twenty fourth- and fifth-graders who studied in special-education schools were accompanied by their teachers to the riding school.

After six weeks, 70% of the children learned to control both the horse and many of the urges that led to disruptive behavior.

HOW TO GIVE BIRTH, IN HEBREW

Israeli medical students and residents are resigned to the fact that most textbooks are written in English.

But now the first comprehensive gynecology and obstetrics textbook has been published in Hebrew by Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine.

The textbook, which is called *Meyaldut, Gynecologia U'Reviya* (Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproduction), is also suitable for nurses and nursing students.

The editors, Prof. Avraham Golan, who heads the ob/gyn department at the medical school, and Prof. Roy Homberg, made a special effort for the text to appear at the beginning of the new academic year.

They said the book, written in clear and simple Hebrew, would have to be updated frequently because of the constant new developments in this field.

STUDY: STRESS POSSIBLE KIDNEY STONES TRIGGER

Major life events, both positive and negative, may trigger the formation of kidney stones, according to a study that, for the first time, links the painful ailment with stress.

The study, comparing 200 kidney-stone patients with a control group of the same size, found the patients were more likely to have endured major stress in the previous two years, according to lead researcher Dr. Reza Najem of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, who reported on the study in the *International Journal of Epidemiology*.

If others confirm his findings, Najem said, it could lead to increased focus on stress management to prevent recurrences of kidney stones.

Kidney stones occur when excess calcium and other substances crystallize in ducts connecting the kidneys and bladder, causing pain from the blockage of urine or the sharp edges scraping the ureter as the stone passes through. Recurrence is common. The stones are usually eliminated by lithotripsy, in which shock waves are used to break the stones into tiny pieces.

Three percent of all Israelis suffer from kidney stones, says Sheba Hospital urology department head Dr. Ya'acov Ramon. He recently announced his department's acquisition of a new type of lithotripter that — unlike the machines in all other hospitals — smashes the stones without requiring anesthesia.

Winnie Mandela stirs emotions among Soweto neighbors

By LYNN DUKE

SOWETO — For \$10, visitors can buy a tiny, corked jar of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's dirt. It is not a list of the allegations she faced during just-finished hearings into abuses committed during the apartheid era. It is soil from the ground on which the Mandela family built its home in the Orlando West section of this southern Johannesburg community.

It is here, at the Winnie Mandela and Family Museum, that the image of the erstwhile "Mother of the Nation" is preserved: Winnie, the international honoree; Winnie, the freedom fighter in fatigues; Winnie, the first-lady-in-waiting, pinning for release of the world's most famous political prisoner, her then-husband Nelson Mandela.

Once, her face was like a mirror in which black South Africans could see their hopes and aspirations. But in the communities surrounding the museum, the Winnie image has shattered into sharp-edged shards that now are weapons in a national debate over her legacy, her integrity, her status as a leader, her future.

This debate had seethed for several years. But now, after nine days of public allegations against her before South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, there is no shortage of loud venting about this woman who stirs emotions here like no other.

"That thing was in the past," says Gift Mbatia, owner of a

vegetable stand a few streets away from the Mandela family museum.

"We must forgive her." "She was supposed to be arrested, not taken" to the truth commission, said Benji Nhlapo, a friend of Mbatia's. "No, I'll never be on that lady's side, because I know what she did."

Nhlapo said he recalls vividly how Madikizela-Mandela's bodyguards made the already miserable life of racial separation more difficult for those around them.

Her bodyguard squad, known euphemistically as the Mandela United Football Club, unleashed a reign of terror in her name, targeting comrades in the fight against apartheid, the system of white-minority rule, and branding them "sellouts."

So complex are the emotions that Madikizela-Mandela stirs that Maurice Mbele, a hairdresser in her neighborhood, defended her by saying:

"Whatever she did, she had a reason." But, he also said that "she didn't tell the truth" to the truth commission.

"I can still vote for her," said a customer of Mbele's, Ditshele Magose, in Padawee's Hair salon. "I don't have a problem. She can still rule."

"She won't. She won't," said Ana Pike, another hairdresser, saying that the troubles in Madikizela-Mandela's past are so serious that they caused the Mandelas' divorce last year. Now, Madikizela-Mandela is seeking high office in the ruling



Winnie Madikizela-Mandela (right) embraces Joyce Seipel, the mother of murdered teenage activist Stompel Seipel, at a hearing Thursday of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. (AP)

African National Congress in voting to take place next month. The party's establishment,

including her former husband, have been campaigning aggressively to thwart her bid.

"You must consider why the president left her because he wouldn't be president if Winnie

was still his wife," she said.

The Mandelas, whose 38-year marriage was interrupted by Nelson's 27 years of political imprisonment, separated in 1992, two years after his release. They divorced last year amid his public accusation that she was unfaithful.

That event split opinion — some thought Nelson was right; others thought he had been too harsh on her.

Now, some see her as a victim yet again. Thursday, she was publicly grilled in a manner not yet used for perpetrators of the repression designed to keep apartheid in place. No former president or general has been grilled so thoroughly, so publicly — not Frederik W. de Klerk, the last president in the apartheid system, nor Pieter W.

Botha, his predecessor. This strikes many blacks here as an outrage that must be reversed.

"The way they were harsh on Winnie, they've got to be harsh on everybody," said Mogase. "She's not the only person who has done the worst. F.W. de Klerk and P.W. Botha — they did the worst." De Klerk, hailed as a reformer when he freed Nelson Mandela in 1990 and set the nation on a course toward reform, has denied to the truth commission that he knew of any atrocities committed during apartheid.

Botha, de Klerk's predecessor, has called the truth commission a "circus" and boldly proclaimed he will not appear before it.

When Botha failed to appear

Friday for a hearing to which he had been subpoenaed, truth commission officials went to an attorney general's office to charge him with contempt of court. It turned out, however, that the subpoena was technically deficient — it did not specify a time for Botha's appearance — and therefore not binding.

A new subpoena was issued for Botha to appear December 19. Anglican Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, the truth commission chairman, repeatedly has warned that Botha will be charged if he flouts the law.

"There is no justice in South Africa," said an elderly woman who lives in Madikizela-Mandela's neighborhood and said she fears retaliation should her name appear in print. "She said that a nearby squatter settlement houses people who 'idolize' Madikizela-Mandela and that they would do her bidding."

The elderly woman said she grieves for Joyce Seipel, whose 14-year-old son, Moketsi "Stompel" Seipel, was beaten and stabbed to death by Madikizela-Mandela's security force over several days in 1988 and 1989. Madikizela-Mandela was convicted for the boy's kidnapping in 1991.

During the truth commission hearings, Joyce Seipel said she wanted Madikizela-Mandela prosecuted for murder. But as the hearings drew to a close, Seipel walked up to Madikizela-Mandela, extended her hand and kissed her on the cheek.

(The Washington Post)

Laos starts looking to attract foreigners

By DAVID LAMB

VIENTIANE, Laos — Here on the banks of the Mekong River, Southeast Asia's economic boom had bypassed Laos. It is as though Laos fell off the world map and Vientiane — small, dusty, sleepy — was time-trapped in the pages of a Graham Greene novel.

While canyons of glass-fronted high-rises tower over other Asian capitals, Vientiane remains a collection of rutted streets and two-story shops, the capital of a country where only one-tenth of the villages are anywhere near a road and only one-quarter of the population has access to safe drinking water.

"Quiet? Yes, it's that," said writer James Michener, a six-year Vientiane resident and nephew of the late author with the same name. "But if you've got your computer, your books, it's a great place: charming, relaxed, like the unspoiled Asia of old."

For a good many years, Laos' aging Communist leaders — the Pathet Lao guerrillas who came out of mountain caves in 1975 to mismanage the country into bankruptcy — were content to keep the nation exactly that. It devised policies to ensure the country's isolation behind a bamboo curtain and shunned paths toward prosperity that Singapore, Malaysia and others had followed.

But the temptation eventually proved too great, and today big changes are in the wind. As US Ambassador Wendy Chamberlin, who speaks Lao and taught here from 1971 to 1973 for International Volunteer Service, put it: "They took a look around the neighborhood and saw that foreign investment — export-led growth — created the economic boom, and they want to be part of it."

The Communists have set a modest goal: to escape from the ranks of the world's 25 poorest countries by 2020. Under the "new economic mechanism" reforms, first toyed with in 1986, they have lifted trade barriers, instituted free-market prices, given farmers the right to own land, liberalized the investment code. Vientiane, if not exactly abuzz, has reacted with a flourish of activity: new shops, more motor scooters, a new airport terminal under construction.

"We are a poor country trying very hard to be rich in the years ahead," said Linthong Phetsavan, acting general director of the Foreign Ministry's media department. The road, he admits, will be a long one.

Three-quarters of Laos' public expenditure budget comes from foreign aid. Its resources — oil, gold, precious metals — are only in the early stages of exploitation. Its plan to build dams and power plants to export hydropower to Thailand has been set back by a Thai economic crisis. Its land remains cluttered with unexploded US ordnance from the Vietnam War that makes development dangerous, expensive and sometimes untenable. And much of its middle class has never returned home after fleeing the Pathet Lao's harsh rule in the mid-1970s.

"While the rest of Asia was devel-

oping, Laos was left standing around, wondering what time of the day it was," said one Western businessman. "Can they ever catch up? I'm not sure. Unlike the Vietnamese, the Laotians are a pretty laid-back people — polite, friendly but not terribly industrious."

"What Laos has going for it is that it's in vogue with donor nations. The remoteness, the mystique of Southeast Asia, the embrace of a free-market economy — they all give Laos a certain appeal. You've got donors falling all over each other to fund the same project," he said.

To be sure, late deat Laos is a tough hand to begin with. A landlocked nation battered by war, it had been colonized, occupied and manipulated by foreign powers since the 19th century.

Today, as poor as Bangladesh in per capita income, it is a country the rest of Southeast Asia continues to dismiss as a backwater stepchild.

Writing in Bangkok's English-language *Nation* newspaper, a Thai columnist recently told how people were fleeing his country's economic downturn. "One friend wants to go to New York," he wrote. "Someone has already gone to London, another to Hong Kong. I even know someone who has moved to Laos. He was that desperate."

Whereas Laos once eschewed anything tainted by the West, the country's real seat of power, the Communist Politburo, now eagerly seeks close political and economic relations with those nations. Laos is the only Indochinese country that did not experience a break in diplomatic relations with Washington in the aftermath of the Vietnam War.

US diplomats term relations with Vientiane as "good and improving." They say the government has been cooperative in assisting in the search for the remains of US airmen shot down over Laos and in seeking crop substitutions that will wean farmers off the opium they grow. Laos is the world's third-largest opium producer.

Over many generations, Laotians became used to being kicked around.

The Thais invaded Vientiane in the 1820s and left only a temple standing. France colonized the country in the 1890s; Japan controlled it in World War II; CIA agents manipulated it in the 1960s.

The Pathet Lao came to power promising retention of the monarchy, guarantees of individual freedom, a neutral foreign policy and a role for the private economic sector. Upward of 40,000 Laotians were sent off to re-education camps.

Today the hammer and sickle and the Communist jargon are gone, along with the bamboo curtain. A two-lane bridge, built by Australia, spans the Mekong near Vientiane and provides the first river-spanning link to Thailand. And Laos took an important further step to end its isolation earlier this year by joining the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

(Los Angeles Times)

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Inside

Betar go top past Hapoel TA

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Pope: Winning isn't everything

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II reminded an Italian League soccer team yesterday that it's not whether you win or lose that counts, it's how you play the game.

The pontiff, a one-time goalkeeper with a long interest in soccer, held an audience with players from Atalanta of Bergamo, which plays at AS Roma today.

"Every competition should be a game for the good and should promote the authentic values of existence with the tenacity and the spirit of sacrifice that you've been asked to show in practice and matches," the pope told his guests.

"Don't ever forget that others, particularly children, watch you, since for them you are role models and often important points of reference."

John Paul, 77, was an avid skier and hiker before a series of health problems limited his physical activity.

Hingis to meet Huber in final

FRANKFURT (AP) — Martina Hingis defeated Lindsay Davenport and Anke Huber upset Iva Majoli yesterday at the Master of Champions tennis tournament to qualify for the final.

Hingis needed just 57 minutes to beat American Olympic champion Davenport 6-4, 6-3.

The latest success brings the 17-year-old Swiss star's 1997 season's record to 79 match victories against only five losses.

Huber, who started ranked No. 6 in the world this year, but has dropped to 14 after failing to win a tournament, broke Majoli to go to 3-2 in the first set and went on to win it 6-3 in just 25 minutes.

In the second set, the 23-year-old German broke the 20-year-old Croatian early to take a 5-2 lead, but Majoli pulled back to 5-4 before Huber wrapped up the match at 6-4 in just 60 minutes.

The tournament featured eight of the world's top women players in round robin play in two groups.

England end All Blacks' winning run

26-all draw delights 75,000 at Twickenham; South Africa bury Scotland 68-10

TWICKENHAM (AP) — England foiled New Zealand's attempt to win all 12 test matches of 1997 with a thrilling 26-26 tie at Twickenham yesterday after leading 20-3 early in the first half.

Three early tries by winger David Rees and back rows Richard Hill and Lawrence Dallaglio against the finest team in the world scared the mighty All Blacks before 75,000 fans at Twickenham.

The New Zealanders, who also beat England at Old Trafford two weeks ago and overwhelmed Ireland and Wales on their European tour, hit back with tries by Andrew Mehrtens and Walter Little.

Little's try turned the game New Zealand's way at 26-23 with 17 minutes to go but Paul Grayson's penalty nine minutes from the end made it a first-ever draw between the two teams.

England have four wins over New Zealand and the All Blacks have 15.

England took the lead with a 5th minute try by Rees and extended it to 10-0 on a ninth-minute score by Hill.

After the New Zealanders had kicked ahead, England quickly counter attacked and winger Rees received the ball 35 yards out, faced by the huge Jonah Lomu.

Instead of trying to run past the big New Zealand winger, he kicked the ball over him, re-gathered and touched down before the cover defense could catch him.

Four minutes later the England fans roared again. Fly half Grayson, who missed the earlier conversion, made a long pass to the left, left wing Austin Healey ran at the All Blacks defense and then center Will Greenwood powered through the middle.

He was tackled close to the line but England No 8 Hill was well positioned in support to collect his pass and score.

Grayson's conversion attempt hit the post and stayed out.

New Zealand reduced England's lead to 10-3 with a 14th-minute penalty by Mehrtens, but England pushed ahead 17-3 in the 16th minute on a try by Dallaglio con-



CENTER OF ATTENTION — England center Tim Stimpson is tackled by New Zealand's Christian Cullen.

(Reuters)

verted by Grayson.

New Zealand center Frank Bunce was felled by a tackle by Phil de Glanville in front of his own post about 30 yards out. The ball went 'loose' and Dallaglio

kicked it ahead between the posts and then beat both beating Lomu and scrum half Justin Marshall to dive on the ball for the touch-down.

Grayson's conversion made it

17-3 in front and then he kicked a penalty to extend it by another three points.

Two penalties by Mehrtens in the 32nd and 36th minutes cut it to 20-9 on a penalty in the 32nd and

another in the 36th.

The expected big All Blacks comeback started early in the second half when Mehrtens scored and then converted a try four minutes into the second half.

South African 68, Scotland 10. South Africa scored eight second half tries in a 68-10 victory over Scotland at Murrayfield yesterday to make it five wins out of five on their European tour.

Fullback Percy Montgomery scored two tries and kicked eight conversions for a personal tally of 26 points while James Small also crossed the Scottish line twice for a South Africa record individual total of 20 tries.

Johan Erasmus, Pieter Rossouw, Gary Teichmann, Tony Venter, Andre Snyman and debutant fly half Franco Smith also posted tries for a South Africa team who only led 14-3 at half time after initially trailing.

Derek Stark scored the lone Scottish try in the second half but it was one-way traffic as the Scots suffered their heaviest home loss.

The one-sided victory followed South African wins over Italy, France twice and England while Scotland, crushed 37-8 by Australia at Murrayfield two weeks ago, will be low on confidence after another heavy loss.

After having to defend for 15 minutes, Scotland edged ahead with a Rowen Shepherd penalty awarded for a South African off-side.

But the Springboks eased ahead in the 23rd minute with Montgomery's first try, converted by Jannie de Beer, who was in for the injured Henry Honiball.

Speedy left winger Rossouw made the first break before releasing Snyman and the burly center's well-timed pass outside to Montgomery allowed the fullback to accelerate away to the corner.

De Beer thought he had scored a second try for the Springboks but it was ruled out because he put a foot in touch in a tackle by Craig Joyner.

But eight minutes before half time it was 14-3 when Johan Erasmus went over for a try converted by Montgomery.

De Beer sprinted through a gap in the center before slipping a pass to flank forward Erasmus to touch down. Montgomery converted and De Beer limped off injured to be replaced by Smith.

Cole leads United past Liverpool; Chelsea crush Spurs

LONDON (AP) — Manchester United, with two goals from Andy Cole and another from David Beckham, won yesterday at Liverpool 3-1 to stay three points ahead of second-place Chelsea in the Premier League.

The loss left once-mighty Liverpool 12 points behind Manchester United with the season not even half over.

Cole opened the scoring in the 51st minute, taking advantage of

sloppy Liverpool defending. Robbie Fowler squared the match to please 41,000 at Anfield on a penalty in the 60th after Michael Owen was fouled in the area.

Beckham made it 2-1 in the 70th on a perfectly struck free kick and Cole got his second in the 74th to ice the match.

Chelsea, behind a hat trick by Norway's Tore Andre Flo, kept

pace with a 6-1 bashing of Tottenham at White Hart Lane in the home debut of new coach Christian Gross.

To make matters worse for Tottenham, a fan ran onto pitch

after Flo scored his first goal and attacked a security guard. The injured guard remained on the ground for five minutes until he was taken away on a stretcher.

Blackburn, the third-place club, also kept winning with a 3-1 home victory over Bolton as Bolton's Alan Thompson was sent off in the 22nd minute.

Arsenal won 1-0 at struggling

Newcastle as Ian Wright scored in the 36th, his first goal in two months.

The most relieved player in England might have been Stan Collymore, who scored his first goal of the season as Aston Villa defeated Coventry 3-0. Coventry played half of the match with 10 men after Paul Williams was sent off in the 45th.

Southampton play at Wimbledon today.

In the first division, 'Boro took over first with a 1-0 win at Bury. Forest slipped to second with a 2-2 draw at home against Bradford. West Brom, with 40 points, moved back into third with a 3-1 win at home over Stockport.

	Premier League						
	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Man United	17	11	4	2	43	13	37
Chelsea	17	11	1	5	41	18	34
Blackburn	17	9	6	2	30	18	33
Arsenal	17	8	6	3	31	18	30
Leeds	17	9	3	5	26	19	30
Leicester	17	7	6	4	22	15	27
Derby	16	8	2	6	30	24	26
Liverpool	16	7	4	5	27	17	25
Newcastle	15	7	3	5	18	19	24
West Ham	17	7	1	9	24	28	22
Aston Villa	17	6	3	8	19	23	21
Crystal Palace	17	5	5	7	17	22	20
Wimbledon	16	5	4	7	18	21	19
Bolton	17	4	7	6	13	24	19
Sheff Wed	16	5	3	8	28	37	18
Coventry	17	3	8	6	13	24	17
Southampton	16	5	1	10	20	26	16
Tottenham	17	4	4	9	14	28	16
Everton	17	3	4	10	16	27	13
Barnsley	16	4	1	11	14	43	13
Aston Villa 3, Coventry 0; Blackburn 3, Bolton 1; Derby 2, West Ham 0; Leeds 0, Everton 0; Leicester 1, Crystal Palace 1; Liverpool 1, Manchester United 3; Newcastle 0, Arsenal 1; Tottenham 1, Chelsea 6.							

Swindon	21	11	4	6	30	28	37
Not Forest	21	12	6	3	34	18	42
W Brom Albion	21	12	4	5	25	17	40
Sheff United	20	10	8	2	30	21	33
Sheff Wed	21	11	4	6	30	28	32
Sunderland	20	9	6	5	30	21	33
Charlton	20	9	5	6	38	28	32
Stockport	21	9	5	7	35	29	32
Wolves	20	9	5	6	25	22	32
Bradford	21	7	9	5	21	21	30
Birmingham	21	7	7	7	21	27	28
QPR Rangers	21	7	6	8	26	33	27
Port Vale	21	7	5	9	25	24	26
Stoke	21	7	5	9	24	28	26
Reading	21	7	5	9	20	31	26
Norwich	21	7	5	9	20	21	26
Reading	21	6	4	9	21	29	24
Tranmere	20	6	4	10	27	31	22
Millwall	21	5	6	10	23	25	21
Millwall	20	4	9	7	22	24	21
Bury	21	4	9	8	21	30	21
Oxford United	21	5	5	11	24	32	20
Huddersfield	21	5	5	11	21	34	20
Crewe	21	5	3	13	24	36	18
Portsmouth	19	4	5	10	23	30	17
Bury 0, Middlesbrough 1; Crewe 2, Swindon 0; Man City 0, Wolverhampton 1; Norwich 2, Sheffield United 1; Notts Forest 2, Bradford 2; Port Vale 0, Birmingham 1; Portsmouth 2, Stoke 0; QPR Rangers 0; Sunderland 1, Reading 2; Charlton 0; Swindon 4, Oxford United 1; Tranmere 1, Ipswich 1; West Brom 3, Stockport 1.							

	Division Two						
Wadford	21	15	4	2	36	14	49
Bristol City	21	14	3	4	38	17	45
Oldham	21	9	7	5	36	27	34
Chesham	21	8	9	4	22	17	33
Millwall	20	9	5	6	27	21	32
Northampton	21	8	8	5	23	15	32
York	21	8	6	7	26	24	30
Bournemouth	21	7	9	5	23	21	30
Blackpool	21	8	5	8	29	32	29
Wrexham	20	7	8	5	27	23	29
Preston	21	8	4	9	27	21	28
Bristol Rovers	21	7	7	7	27	29	28
Fulham	21	7	7	7	24	23	28
Grimsby	20	7	7	6	23	18	28
Gillingham	21	7	6	8	26	30	27
Walsall	20	7	5	8	22	24	26
Walsall	21	5	8	8	28	33	23
Weymouth	20	4	4	10	28	33	22
Southend	21	6	4	11	21	38	22
Plymouth	21	4	9	8	24	29	21
Luton	20	5	6	9	21	31	21
Barnley	21	4	8	9	23	31	20
Brentford	21	4	7	10	21	34	19
Carlisle	21	4	4	13	24	41	16
No league games scheduled.							

	Division Three						
	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Lincoln City	21	11	7	3	23	16	40
Peterborough	21	10	9	2	39	19	39
Notts County	21	10	8	3	29	21	38
Exeter	21	9	8	4	30	23	35
Scunthorpe	20	9	6	5	28	24	33
Norwich	21	8	8	5	34	31	32
Barnet	21	9	5	7	31	28	32
Hartlepool	21	7	11	3	30	23	32
Scarborough	21	9	4	8	32	30	31
Chesham	21	9	4	8	31	27	31
Torquay	21	8	7	6	31	30	31
Hastings	20	7	9	5	28	20	30
Leyton Orient	21	7	7	7	21	19	28
Colchester	20	7	6	7	29	28	27
Cambridge Utd	21	5	12	3	20	19	27
St Albans	20	7	5	8	31	30	26
Cardiff	20	5	9	7	28	28	24
Shrewsbury	20	7	5	8	31	30	26
Cardiff	20	5	9	7	28	28	24
Walsall	21	6	6	9	26	26	24
Rockdale	21	7	2	12	24	26	23
Swansea	21	6	3	12	22	32	21
Doncaster	20	4	8	8	23	30	20
Hull	21	5	4	12	18	39	19
Brighton	21	3	6	12	15	29	15
Doncaster	21	1	6	14	14	49	9
Scarborough 1, Rochdale 0.							

Scottish Premier	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Hearts	15	12	0	3	37	17	36
Rangers	15	9	5	1	41	18	32
Celtic	15	9	2	4	26	12	29
Dundee United	15	5	5	5	27	24	20
Dundee	15	5	4	6	21	32	20
St Johnstone	16	5	4	7	17	23	19
Kilmarnock	16	5	3	8	15	32	18
Hibernian	15	3	4	8	21	24	13
Falkirk	16	3	4	9	20	29	13
Aberdeen	15	2	6	7	15	29	12

Aberdeen 1, St Johnstone 1; Dundee United 0, Dundee 0; Hearts 2, Motherwell 0; Kilmarnock 0, Celtic 0.

Scottish Cup (First Round): Cowdenbeath 0, Montrose 0; East Fife 2, Stranraer 3; Inverness Caledonian 3, Whitehill 1.

FA Cup (Second Round): Cambridge 1, Stevenage 1; Cardiff 3, Hendon 1; Cheltenham 1, Barnham Wood 1; Colchester 1, Hereford 1; Fulham 1, Southend 0; Grimsby 2, Chesterfield 2; Huddersfield 0, Darlington 1; Lincoln City 2, Enley 2; Macclesfield 0, Walsall 1; Northampton 1, Basingstoke 1; Oldham 2, Blackpool 1; Peterborough 3, Dag and Red 2; Preston 2, Notts County 1; Ilkeston Town 1; Torquay 1; Watford 1; Wigan 2; York 1; Wisbech 0; Bristol Rovers 2.

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